



Shop in
eco-friendly
fashion

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A smurfy
trip to buck
the blues

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Cheeky way to kill 10 mins

Cheeky Monkey Theater put on the city's first English theater festival at Yan Club in 798 Art District last Saturday. The festival, 12 performances in total, entertained expats and locals alike with short plays, modern dances and Peking Opera.

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Photo by Li Shaolin

Six tips for
going global

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Netizens
cry another
turncoat

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French take
on Chinese
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Weathering
the Spring
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CPPCC chair pledges to 'tap the committee'

By Cai Jindong

Yang Anjiang was re-elected chairperson of the 11th Beijing Municipal Committee of Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) at its first session, Wednesday. Its leadership includes ten more vice-chairpersons and one secretary.

Yang pledged at the news conference to put more effort into tapping the committee's potential, and he would concentrate on the security and safety of the Olympic Games.

As of 8 pm Tuesday, the deadline for motion submissions, the committee received 1188 motions, 1117 of which were registered for further discussion, Si Lejun, deputy director of the examination committee, said.

"The committee will consider the 71 motions not yet registered, and we will discuss and exchange opinions with their proposers for any possible adjustments," Si said.

As many as 70 percent of the motions were submitted online.

"About 80 percent of the newly-elected members sent in proposals, which demonstrates their enthusiasm," Si said.

Environmental protection, social security, education, medical care and housing were the subjects of half the motions, and another 12 percent were related to the Olympic Games.

Motions related to economic issues are mostly about the adjustment of industrial structure as well as improvement of energy efficiency.

Around 60 motions discuss the planning of municipal transportation lines.

Educational issues such as fair distribution of educational resources, balanced development between urban and rural education, student-burden reduction and promotion of healthy lifestyles were brought up in discussion.

"Most of the motions are related to clues and suggestions the CPPCC received from the public," Si said.

UN calls for targeted health strategies to save kids

By Huang Daohen

With some 26,000 children under age five dying every day around the world, targeted strategies are crucial to save lives, according to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) annual study report released yesterday at the Huadu Hotel.

The report, titled "State of the World's Children 2008," said nearly 9.7 million children die before their fifth birthday each year, and more than one third die during their first month due to lack of nutrition or lack of proper medical treatment.

Most of the children could live if their parents had access to proper medical care, according to the report.

The report stresses that investing in the health of children and their mothers is both a human right and development imperative.

In 1960, approximately 20 million children did not live to see their fifth birthday. The figure dipped to 9.7 million in 2006, marking a 60 percent drop in child mortality rates.

"There is no room for complacency," Ann Veneman, UNICEF's executive director, wrote in her forward to the report.

Despite recent progress made in the realm of children's health, UNICEF warned that Africa, South Asia and the Middle East are not on track to achieve the Millennium Development Goal (MDG), a UN goal of reducing child mortality by two-thirds.

"Stepping up investment in health systems will be crucial if we are to meet the child health targets set by the UN, but progress can be made even when health systems are weak," Margaret Chan, director-general of the UN World Health Organization (WHO), said.

The 154-page study is based on a global household survey and statistical information taken from the WHO and World Bank.

UNICEF praised China for putting in place clear strategies to improve the livelihood of its children. The under-five mortality rate in China has declined to from 45 in 1990 to 24 for every 1,000 live births.

Preparing CCTV tower for the Olympics



Workers started to install glass-curtain walls on the new CCTV tower Wednesday. The 234-meter high building will be used next year. In August, Television Cultural Center (TVCC) will broadcast the Games. Photo by Niu Yixian

IPC, IWBF officials 'satisfied' with Paralympic preparation

By He Jianwei

The officials from the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) and International Wheelchair Basketball Federation (IWBF) oversaw the drawing to determine match-ups for the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games Wheelchair Basketball Competition Wednesday at the Swissotel.

A total of 264 athletes will participate in the wheelchair basketball competition from September 7 to 16. The 12 men's teams and 10 women's teams were divided into two groups in the qualifications.

Philip Craven, president of the IPC, visited the National Indoor Stadium, where the event was held, on January 22. He praised the venue's accessible facilities.

"After I got off the plane, I went to the National Indoor Stadium. Although I felt tired, it was easy for me to get around with my wheelchair in the venue," Craven said.

As a former wheelchair basketball player, Craven also played 10 minutes with Chinese wheelchair basketball players in the training field at Beijing Language and Culture University.

He thought the floor was the

key element for the wheelchair basketball competition. He was satisfied with the floor in the training venue after he played wheelchair basketball on it.

"The accessible facilities in the stadium will definitely guarantee a successful and high level wheelchair basketball competition during Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games," Maureen Orchard, president of IWBF, said.

Besides the accessible facilities in the venues, Orchard also said she was satisfied with the public accessible facilities in transportation and hotels.

Large celebs, rich families must go

By Li Fenghua

Celebrity and wealth will no longer be a way to escape the reach of the country's family planning policy if new local regulations take effect, Director of the Beijing Family Planning Committee Deng Xingzhou said last Sunday.

The new government plan will increase the fines levied against celebrity and rich couples, and their violations of the policy will be logged in their financial records.

The way many celebrities and wealthy people flaunt large fami-

lies has caused indignation within many levels of society, but others argue that to single out social elites for punishment ignores the reality that many more poor families give birth to multiple children without facing such severe punishment.

Current Beijing regulations state that the penalty fine for families which give birth to a second child is three to 10 times the couple's annual average disposable income. For couples who have more than two children, fines can increase dramatically.

"To ensure the long-term har-

monious development of man and nature, enforcement of the family planning policy will continue to be the main task of the government. Those who violate the policy will be seriously punished," Deng said.

China is still densely populated, and even with the family planning policy, its population will reach 1.5 billion in 20 more years.

The government has yet to define what it means by "celebrity" or "rich," but discussion is underway, and a more detailed plan is expected soon.

English training continues as Games draw near

By Li Fenghua

To mark the 200th day before the Olympic Games, an Olympic English training ceremony was held last Friday, at the Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press of Beijing Foreign Studies University, appointed the city's Olympic English training center.

Liu Yang, deputy director of the activity's organizing committee, said 701 community English training centers and 433 community English corners have been established.

A million people have attended the 40,000 English learning activities each year, Liu said.

"By the end of 2007, the city's English-speaking population reached 5 million, or about 33 percent of the city's permanent residents," Liu said.

Thirty companies, including several old firms such as the Quanjudo Roast Duck Restaurant and Laoshe Teahouse, have been announced as training stations.

Teachers from Beijing Foreign Studies University will be sent to the training stations to lecture and guide residents and employees from the window industry in their spare time.

About 80,000 — 100,000 people will be trained in these stations to create a more favorable language atmosphere for the Games, Liu said.

Dashan (Mark Rowsell) and Huang Song, ambassadors of the Beijing Olympic English speaking activity, delivered lively speeches to ceremony attendants to inspire enthusiasm for learning English.

Brief news

Focus on disabled people

The State Council approved in principle Wednesday a draft law revision that would improve the education, rehabilitation and living standards of disabled people. The changes were backed during an executive meeting presided over by Premier Wen Jiabao, member of the CPC Standing Committee.

Heavy snows reek havoc

Heavy snows in Anhui Province since last Friday have damaged 155,500 hectares of crops and collapsed 5,144 houses, killing one person. As many as 9,252 people have been evacuated from unsafe housing. The snows have caused an estimated 810 million yuan (US \$112 million) in damages, taking out power and telecommunication lines in 50 towns.

Busing back to hometowns

As many as 52.48 million travelers began their holiday bus journeys on Wednesday, the first day of the Spring Festival road transport peak, up from 49.5 million last year, a Ministry of Communications spokesman said. The ministry expects a record 2.15 billion to bus to family gatherings and holidays during the 40-day period.

(By Jackie Zhang)

Travel safety uncertain after girl's tragic train death

By Huang Daohen

Leng Jing, a junior foreign languages student in Anhui Normal University, was killed by an oncoming train after pushed by crowds onto the Wuhan Railway Station tracks, January 13.

Her death has returned the spotlight to safety on the nation's trains with Chunyun, or Spring Festival transportation, quickly approaching. During the 40-day

period, railways are expected to carry a record of 178.6 million passengers, a Ministry of Railways spokesman said.

Witnesses said Leng was one of 500 passengers, mostly college students trying to return home, waiting for the train from Ningbo, Zhejiang Province to arrive. It was scheduled to pick up passengers en route to Fuyang, Anhui Province.

Leng Jing's family arrived at

Wuhu soon after the tragedy, and her father, Leng Enlai, said they reached a compensation agreement with the railway authorities. Insiders disclosed that the compensation would be 700,000 yuan.

Local media quoted Leng Enlai as saying he "was satisfied with the compensation, and this event was satisfactorily resolved." He refused further comment.

Netizens blamed railway

authorities for the tragedy, accusing them of "profit-seeking and neglecting their duty to keep public order."

As of press time, the head of the railway station and related officials who were on duty during the accident have been dismissed. The station plans to add 20 armed policemen and several volunteers to keep order on the platform during Chunyun, Xinhua reported.

A Ministry of Railways spokesman said the ministry is very concerned with safety during Chunyun, and said it has arranged an additional 622 trains to increase transport capacity.

Ministry estimates suggest Beijing will service 30.09 million passengers in the coming Chunyun, up seven percent from last year's figures, the spokesman said.

Four new pandas to face the wild

By Jackie Zhang

Four pandas bred in captivity in the China Panda-Protection Research Center, Wolong Natural Reserve, Sichuan Province, may soon be released into the wild.

Though the four pandas currently enjoy comfort and nutrition in the center, they may soon have to battle for bamboo against the elements to survive in the wild.

However, since the failure of the first panda release, the plan has been under dispute.

Xiangxiang, the first candidate, was released into the wild in April 2006. Eight months later, he was found seriously injured in the forest and was taken back to the center. After a week of treatment, he was released again.

Last February, Xiangxiang was found dead in the snow.

"Xiangxiang's death taught us a valuable lesson. The first panda release was not a total failure," said Zhang Hemin, head of the Administrative Bureau of Wolong Natural Reserve, State Forestry Administration.

"We did not have any past experience with releasing captive giant pandas into the wild. The process is like crossing a river by feeling for stones," Zhang said.

Xiangxiang's death has researchers considering the disadvantages of the captive breeding.

"Currently, 99 percent of our energy is put into captive breeding. Xiangxiang was given three years of training to prepare him for life in the wild, but the work culminated in his death," Tan Yingchun, a researcher from the center, said.

Tan said the research staff made a mistake when it selected a male panda.

"Xiangxiang's case proved it is difficult for male animals to be accepted by wild groups. It was also a problem of location. The area where we released Xiangxiang was dense with wild pandas," Tan said.

"His appearance meant there was a newcomer competing for food in their territory. Captive breeding pandas are used to human care and are not able to recognize enemies or to attack or defend themselves," Tan said.

There are three possibilities for the next panda release: a lone female giant panda, a small group of pandas or a panda mother and cub, Tan said.

Lights of Dunhuang



The Lights of Dunhuang opened January 19 at the National Art Museum of China. The items on exhibit come mostly from Dunhuang Academy, including exquisite 10 recovered antres, 13 Dunhuang duplicate colorful sculptures, 120 Dunhuang grotto frescoes copies, nine Dunhuang colorful

sculptures, 10 original documents from Library Cave of Dunhuang and 10 floor tiles of Dunhuang. They are from different Cave Mogao Grottoes of different dynasties. The exhibit closes March 21.

Photo by Lu Xu

Power of the Internet brings lost beggar back home

By Jackie Zhang

When Zhang Baoliang vanished from his village five years ago, his neighbors all believed he had been kidnapped or killed. They never expected him to reappear as a homeless Internet sensation.

Two months ago, a netizen using the handle Chiqingmuou posted a video titled "Crazy beggar" to youku.com, a Web video sharing site, which featured and unkempt man with a scraggly beard, dressed in a grimy blue coat, dancing to music in front of a store for two minutes and 30 seconds.

The video's makers said their work showed the man's migratory life, though many netizens criticized them for poking fun at the unfortunate man.

It had one other effect no one could have expected: it helped his neighbors find him and take him home.

A villager from Xiaotun Village, Fengtai District, saw the video

by chance and recognized that the man was Zhang.

"I was shocked when I heard the news," Shi Xueguang, manager of the village, said.

"Zhang and his parents all have mental problems. He never went to school, and in 2003, he insisted on asking for two yuan from his parents but his mom refused. No one knew what happened to him after that," Shi said.

The villagers were organized to search for Zhang all over Beijing, but after four months, the search was abandoned and they assumed Zhang was dead.

When villagers learned Zhang was alive, they suggested the village committee find him and bring him home because his parents died two years ago.

Staff from the village committee posted notices online asking for netizens' help in tracking down Zhang. The video turned out to have been shot near a shopping plaza in

Tangshan, Hebei Province.

Last month, six staff members from the village committee went to Tangshan to search for Zhang. When they arrived at the plaza, they saw him standing in front of a store. Although five years passed, Zhang still could recognize these villagers from his hometown.

That night, he returned home with the villagers. They arranged for him to live in a local retirement home. When he learned his parents were dead, Zhang appeared to be sad. "I regret leaving home, because I cannot see my parents again," he said.

Zhang plans to go back to Tangshan to visit the people who helped him while he was wandering there. A new video showing Zhang back home has been uploaded by the village committee.

"It is our way of saying thanks to the people of Tangshan for their kindness and to let netizens know what happened to him," Shi said.

Cameras horn in on couple's private kiss

By Zhang Dongya

Shanghai subway workers earned a place in the Internet's hall of shame last week when they posted security camera footage of a kissing couple online dubbed with their own snarky commentary.

The staff has been fiercely criticized for violating passengers' privacy, though some also criticize the couple's behavior in a public place.

The video, titled "Shanghai Subway Hot Kiss," was posted to YouTube and other video sharing Web sites last week.

A young couple in the subway kiss goodbye and hug while subway staff jeer and mock on the audio. The location in the footage was found by subway staff and the employees talking in the background of the video were identified by Shanghai Metro Company, which proved the clip was recorded via its surveillance cameras.

The video was reportedly recorded on September 2, 2007 at Youyilu Station on Line 3 of the Shanghai subway system.

The voices were a woman and three men no longer working for the company, a company spokesman said. The woman in the group was on temporary assignment and has returned to her original workplace. Two of the men left Shanghai Metro last year.

The couple in the video was identified by friends on the Internet. The two were reportedly very embarrassed when friends and relatives inquired about the footage.

The man resigned from his job citing personal reasons and the video incident. "Every time I walk into a metro station, I feel very uncomfortable," he said.

The couple said it was collecting evidence to file legal action against Shanghai Metro if it fails to take responsibility or apologize for the invasion of privacy.



Video clip of the kissing couple
Photo by Sina.com

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Change in the winds for mobile roaming charges



Bettany Katriona, the European Parliament councillor, used a mobile phone during a conference. The European Commission recently asked its members to cut roaming fees.

Xinhua Photos

(Reuters) – The government started a public hearing Tuesday to discuss lowering domestic mobile roaming charges to address complaints from users, Xinhua News Agency reported.

Hosted by the National Development and Reform Commission, the top economic planner, the hearing discussed two proposed plans for roaming charges, it reported.

Both proposals involve canceling the existing roaming service fee

of 0.2 yuan per minute, which users have criticized as being too high, local media reported.

The first proposal would bring down the upper limit on roaming fees by about 15 percent on average, while the second would lower the upper limit by 63 percent, but would raise the ceiling on charges for contract users by 0.1 yuan per minute.

The proposals differ on how the calling party and called party would

shoulder the fees.

The move is aimed at simplifying mobile roaming fees and increasing transparency, the Ministry of Information Industry wrote on its Web site on Tuesday.

China's mobile operators, China Mobile and China Unicom, collect domestic roaming fees if the subscriber leaves the local service area. Analysts have mixed views on whether a cut in roaming charges would affect the two operators.

Expert comment

By Huang Daohen

It will be a while before roaming charges can be canceled, Li Jibin, an expert from the Telecommunications Committee at the Ministry of Information Industry, said.

Roaming charges are a global concern and has been long discussed in China. Many mobile phone users say they hope the public hearing held this Tuesday will lead to a thorough overhaul of current roaming charges.

"But can the hearing really resolve the issue? I think it still needs more time," Li said.

The professor pointed out that the focus of the current dispute concerns two key aspects.

Of the first, cost, China

Mobile said its roaming revenue in 2005 and 2006 was around 18 billion yuan and 21 billion yuan respectively. However, mobile phone users usually do not understand the fee system, and many users are calling for more price transparency.

According to telecom rules, call charges are to be based on operational costs. Many believe the cost of mobile roaming is very small – almost negligible – and there are still large profit margins to be made between roaming fees and costs, Li said.

The second focus is on "one network, one price."

Many consumers have been calling on mobile telecom compa-



The hearing held on Tuesday to discuss the roaming fee cut.

panies to cancel roaming fees completely, Li said.

He said having just one price for roaming fees on a single network is a trend in China's telecom development.

Due to the unbalanced development of different areas around the country, it may be a while before they achieve this goal, Li said.

Roaming fees around the world

By Huang Daohen

US: no charges within the same area

In the US, the definition of roaming charge varies from company to company. In general, the roaming fees may occur if the customer uses his phone outside of the signal area provided by the operator. Roaming fees will also be charged to customers who use their phone outside the US.

However, customers will be informed on the phone if the

roaming fee is charged.

Abolition of roaming fees between operators is a current trend in the US.

EU: no domestic charges

If you ask people about cell phone roaming charges in an EU member country, they will assume you plan to go abroad. There are no domestic roaming charges in EU member states, but the charges are staggering if you cross among member states.

Generally, cross-border roaming fees are five times higher than the domestic fee in EU member states.

Russia

Roaming charges in Russia cost about US \$1 – 2 per minute, but since market-oriented reforms began, operators have been slashing these charges.

Japan

No roaming fees are charged for mobile phones in Japan. There are also no long distance fees.

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Books

BEIJING TODAY
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BEIJING TODAY
Editor: Huang Daohen Designer: Yang Gen

China requires monthly monitoring of banks' subprime positions

The China Banking Regulatory Commission (CBRC) will implement monthly checks on major commercial banks' subprime investment positions, the official China Securities Journal reported, citing a source close to the matter.

The CBRC has established a special group to investigate subprime holdings of the country's largest lenders and report their

findings monthly, officials said.

The CBRC will monitor both realized and unrealized gains and losses, the report said, adding that the major banks will include Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC), China Construction Bank and Bank of China (BOC).

BOC will report lower profits, even a loss, when it announces its 2007 results this April due

to write downs on its US\$ 7.95 billion worth of investments in securities linked to US subprime mortgages, the South China Morning Post reported.

The Bank of China issued a statement Tuesday denying awareness of any reasons for recent declines in its stock prices.

Bank spokesman Wang Jianping said Monday that details of the bank's assets would be

released with its annual report in late March.

Chinese lenders so far have not reported damage from their holdings of subprime securities.

Analysts say the subprime hits for the country's largest financial institutions are a comparatively small amount, adding that the BOC is likely to come out of the credit crisis relatively unharmed. **(Agencies)**

Three Dos and Don'ts for CEOs 'Going Global'

By Brion Tingle

China's economy is taking the world by storm. Its companies are stronger than they have ever been domestically, and they are hunting for growth opportunities. For many companies, this will mean looking abroad and "Going Global."

So what are some things a CEO should think about as he creates a global strategy and makes his company into one of the lucky and successful? Below is a perspective on the situation and challenges, as well as three do's and three don'ts to consider.

A bit of perspective

When I first visited China in 1998, an acquaintance could not understand why I would go to China for a summer vacation. Even when I moved to Beijing in 2001, the year China joined WTO, nobody was thinking about Chinese companies "Going Global."

At the time, people in my business and other service providers like bankers and lawyers, were focused entirely on helping US and Europe-based companies get a "lay of the land" in China.

While the Globalization trend for Chinese companies has begun, there are four groups of challenges as Chinese companies "jump into the sea."

First, there are business cultural practices that will constrain Chinese companies' expansion.

Chinese companies rely too heavily on *guanxi*, social connections, instead of contracts. *Guanxi* is a necessary supplement for any business plan and has strong legal covenants, but should not dominate the primary position. In other countries, *guanxi* is not nearly as important.

Chinese companies are great negotiators, but relentless bargaining can create a short term focus that blinds companies to the bigger picture and long-term strategic view.

With these challenges, what is a Chinese company to do? Here are three do's and three don'ts.

Three Do's

Do build your corporate, or company brand. This is particularly important because of the crisis of confidence "Made in China" is facing today.

Do show the human face of your company. Hire senior people at critical foreign postings who are not only bilingual, but also bicultural. Then, find ways of get-

ting them out to meet the media, government, customers and influential people.

Do hire seasoned advisors, not just people you know have *guanxi*. As we all know, the differences between the US and China are vast. Why wouldn't you hire qualified firms that can help navigate these differences? CNOOC's difficulties with Unocal are a good example.

Three Don'ts

Don't think that the way you did it back home will work here. Find the method that works best, and use that. Don't get stuck on one strategy or custom.

Don't rely on sponsorships without investing additional time and resources in the asset. Being a global top Olympic or NBA sponsor is indeed a great thing, but Chinese companies must be prepared to invest beyond sponsorship fees to exploit these assets.

Don't ignore the power of a global listing. Being listed on the NASDAQ or NYSE is a stamp of approval on the business, management and corporate governance of a company. Not only do you raise cash, but you have an opportunity to start to build your brand among global consumers with significant influence and spending power.

It is even more important to keep in mind that, over the next year, China and its relationship with the rest of the world will be under a microscope. The US-China relationship will be closely scrutinized.

- A National People's Congress meeting in Beijing (March 2008)

- The US presidential primaries, which will choose the final two candidates for the US Presidential elections (Now through September 2008)

- The Olympics (August 2008)
- The election of a new President in the US (November 2008)

This will have an effect on Chinese companies' efforts in the US and around the world. Prepare your globalization strategy with these events in mind.

While there may be challenges ahead, no companies are better prepared to *chiku*, suffer bitterness, and thrive in difficult circumstances.

(Brion Tingle is an associate director at Gavin Anderson & Company, a worldwide advisor on corporate and financial communications. This article was adapted from Tingle's contribution on *Chinastake.com*.)

Disney to target lady phone buyers



Walt Disney, which shut down its US cellphone service last year, is starting a similar service in Japan. This time, its target is adult women; not children.

Xinhua/AFP Photo

Baidu launches Japanese service

(FT) – Baidu, China's leading Internet search provider, launched its Japanese-language service this Wednesday in Japan, marking its first major overseas venture.

Baidu is set to compete against Yahoo! Japan and Google Japan, which together have a duopoly on the search engine market. Yahoo! Japan has about a 60 percent market share, while Google's stands at about 40 percent, analysts said.

The high-profile entrance of a Chinese company into Japan's Web world has raised the prickly question of why the country has largely failed to produce successful home-grown Internet services and content providers that can compete on a global level.

Super 8 Hotels appointed to Olympic accommodation team

By Huang Daohen

Super 8 Hotels China has been appointed by the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad and the Beijing Tourism Bureau as a member of the Beijing Olympic Village Accommodation Service Management Team.

The appointment was formalized in a signing ceremony last week, which Mitchell Presnick, chairman and CEO of Super 8 Hotels China, and BOCOG officials attended.

Super 8 will manage nine apartment buildings, three resident service centers and two service facilities within the Olympic Village during the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games.

"Super 8 is very proud to support the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games and provide Clean & Friendly service to Olympics guests," Presnick said.

SOHO China supports college volunteers

By Huang Daohen

SOHO China presented recently a condolence reception for the college volunteers who stayed in school during the Spring Festival and served in the Good Luck Beijing series of events.

During the reception, held at the Central University of Nationalities, volunteers received "Love Packages" provided by the SOHO China, which contained necessary learning supplies and train tickets.

The event, hosted in partnership with the Beijing Communist Youth League of China, was part of the "Smile Beijing" theme activity for students staying in school during the winter vacation.

A Beijing Communist Youth League spokesman said there are 6,000 student volunteers who will stay in School and serve in the Good Luck Beijing events during Spring Festival.

'Traitor' or team player

By Huang Daohen

Tang Na, a former Chinese ping pong player turned South Korean national, said that "South Korea is my motherland," the *Chosun Ilbo* said, stirring up a storm over Tang being a "traitor."

According to the report, Tang said she would compete to win the gold in the upcoming Beijing Olympics this August for her motherland, South Korea.

The report, originally written in Korean, was seen by Chinese netizens and translated into Chinese, then from whence it spread wildly on Web sites.

Beijing Today's call to Tang, now in the South Korea, went unanswered. Her husband, Gu Xiaochun, now in Nantong, Jiangsu Province, said it was false.

"What's this all about? I met her in Tianjin last December after the qualification event and she never said that," Gu said, adding that Tang was also tortured by the report.

Tang is one of the most outstanding female ping pong players fostered by the Jilin Provincial Team in the past

20 years.

She decided to move to South Korea in 2000 because she found she had few opportunities on the star-studded Chinese team.

Her efforts paid off earlier this year when she stormed the qualifiers. She will travel with the South Korean team to Guangzhou, Guangdong Province next month for the World Team Championship. Another former Chinese player, Guo Fangfang, is also on South Korea's roster.

The controversy brings former controversial figure Koyama Chire back into the troubled spotlight. Some claim Tang is the junior version of Koyama.

He Zhili is the former Chinese world ping pong champion who played under the Japanese name for her adopted country in 1994.

In the 1994 Asian Games in Hiroshima, Japan, He beat China's top two world-ranked players Deng Yaping and Qiao Hong to claim the single's title, and has since been labeled a "turncoat" or "traitor."

Comment

A good thing

Chinese players playing abroad and choosing to adopt the nationality of another country should be supported. As athletes, they have the desire to participate in world event.

However, not all the excellent Chinese players get the chance, since there are limited quotas for each country. Once Tang took on South Korean colors, she got the opportunity to participate in the championships. It's a manifestation of an athlete's value.

It's also good to promote the development of ping pong in different countries.

— Liu Fengde, professor and former national team player

No problem

We treated Tang Na's joining the South Korean nationality and playing on behalf of South Korea and participating in the championships very calmly.

However, as a former team



A file picture of Tang Na who was competing for the national championships in 2006.

Photo by Liu Ying

member, I wish she hadn't announced it.

— Huang Biao, team leader of the national team

Second thoughts

Everyone has the right to choose his future, even if the choice may be wrong. Why do elites choose to play abroad? Maybe we should re-think our methods for selection.

— Clare Chen, student

Fragile female

I really wonder whether some Chinese are angry at this woman's lack of patriotic spirit and team play or they are angry at

her desire to play for another country. Why not consider that she is also a fragile female. Be gentle and take it easy.

— Jeff Basson, netizen

Traitors galore

She reminds me of Jenny Lang Ping who is the current coach of the US national volleyball team. Lang is a professional athlete who has coached many clubs overseas. She handles volleyball in the US creating a formidable opponent for China. Therefore, isn't Lang also a "traitor"?

— Xiao Zhi

Mercy killing controversy

By Wang Chuyang

Recently, an old man in Tongzhou district brutally stabbed his severely-ill wife to death, to ease the couple's suffering.

Hu Baolong, 74, was charged with the murder of his wife, who had been dependent on him since she suffered a series of strokes that left her body paralyzed. Many people are at a loss to figure out what terrible motivation could have driven a man to kill his wife.

The Tongzhou senior was caring for his spouse who was suffering from a variety of serious ailments. "My wife had hemiplegia and renal failure and was a diabetic. So it was overwhelmingly difficult to take care of her," Hu said.

He was faced with an impossible schedule and forced to do it on his own, day after day, with no spare moments to himself. "I didn't want to do it," Hu said.

The old man and his wife, who had been together since childhood, married young. They have two sons who are also married. As much as he loved his wife, he just wanted to find time for himself during the day, even if just occasionally. Even with the help of a babysitter, he still had a lot to do during the night.

During final arguments, Hu said he regretted killing his wife but it was too late. The residents jointly signed a letter to plead the court to reconsider the extenuating circumstances.

Comment

Life is sacred

No one has the right to deprive a disabled patient of life without a legal permit

— The prosecutor

A case of euthanasia

If the situation is indeed in according to what he said, his behavior would be defined as euthanasia, but his approach was too radical

— Judge, Tongzhou Court

Ease the pain

If the patient truly wants it, I think they should be allowed to be put out of their misery. There should be papers you can sign giving the right to euthanize a person under spe-

cial circumstances.

— Harry

It is murder

The victim was senile and couldn't make a decision on her own. It was voluntary euthanasia, so there is no question it was murder.

— Jason

Show compassion

I was very emotional when hearing this news. My father suffered a stroke and was bed-ridden for many years. It was very hard on him, my mother and me. Though Hu's behavior was wrong, the court should give a wrongdoer a way out.

— Jeff

Highest year-end bonus from the boss



This picture taken by a netizen this week shows a small business owner on his knees and washing the feet of his

best employees at the company's annual commendation meeting.

Some said the owner is com-

passionate while others said it was just a show.

Photo provided by rednet.com

French photog focuses on Beijing folks

By Gan Tian
Philippe Bourgeois, the Eiffel Tower Company's licensed photographer, now focuses on Chinese landscapes and people.

Bourgeois, 41, had been in Beijing for a year and a half, shooting the city's scenery a la French style. He arrived in 2004 for the events during the French Year in China, and since has visited frequently and has been to many provinces including Shanxi, Yunnan, and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. He mentioned China was such a big place to explore, and he would like to start his business here.

Besides China's ancient temples and countryside, visitors should see the people: old people of minority groups, lovely children, and migrant workers, he said. "I saw many Chinese contemporary artists' works. Most of them were high quality,



Bourgeois capturing the simple life.

Photos provided by Philippe Bourgeois

but I didn't see any pieces featuring people," he said.

Having experimented, practiced, and finally mastered photography for more than 20 years, Bourgeois had his own way to display his talents. He was hired as the photographer to shoot the Eiffel Tower and was given permission by the company to visit any section of the metallic marvel.

"I spent six months on the tower, day and night, winter and summer, looking for every angle to shoot," he recalled. This experience forced him to see Paris and its people in a very different light.

Bourgeois sometimes viewed people as ants from the top of the tower and sometimes felt the city lights shoot right through it at night. The experience taught him to put his feelings into his photos.

He does not have a professional shooting background. He graduated with a degree

in business and administration with a major in marketing.

Bourgeois remembered the first pictures for which he was paid. He shot many Paris sights that just happened to be seen by Michelin's tourism guides. "I earned 20,000 yuan for the publication of eight pictures in the *Paris Green Guide*, and since then, I realized I could make money from this," he said.

Bourgeois said the international markets are now paying more and more attention to China, the country's progress in many aspects, its extraordinary rich culture, and its high value as a touristic destination, so he decided to stay. His present plan is to start his own studio or company.

The photographer does worry about Chinese copyright problems. "The market is certainly growing, and it will get better," he said.



Philippe Bourgeois

A laowai mediator 'inaugurated' in Nanjing

By Cai Jindong

Kate Kinahan, 27, ended her probation last week. Kinahan first majored in medicine but then entered Nanjing University's law school in 2003 to study dispute settlement; she has since developed an interest in dispute mediation.

Knowing that the theories she learned from law school could be useful only when they were combined with and applied to practices, she started working as an intern in the Haining Road branch of the Gulou district bureau of justice at the end of 2007.

First case

Soon after Kinahan took the job, a housing dispute arose, in which parentless mentally-retarded young man was unable to support himself when his father's house had been transferred to his half sister. In the mediation center, a blond *laowai* mediator proved to be a real eye-opener for the disputants.

"Who is that? What on earth is she doing here?" was the response from the bewildered on-lookers.

After the initial shock, Kinahan was soon accepted after an



Kinahan talking with a local resident.

Photo by Zhao Jie

explanation was given. In the discussion of a mediatory scheme, Kinahan tried to humanize the solution by suggesting that extra attention be paid to the emotional and psychological needs of the disputants.

The controversy resulted in a "fairly effective" settlement, as Kinahan described it. A mediatory agreement was signed saying that the young man would trade his inheritance right in the house for a monthly allowance of 500 yuan from his step-mother.

"This was the first successful case in which I took part," Kinahan said, delighted at the result.

Cultural gap

For Kinahan, being a mediator was a career choice that required both an in-depth

knowledge of Chinese culture and local reality.

In western countries like South Africa and the UK, both parties must be present for mediation. Separate meetings with either party are allowed, sometimes even necessary, in China. This, as Kinahan learned from her first case, is partly because Chinese people are more unlikely to admit their faults in a face-to-face mediation.

As fluent in Mandarin as Kinahan might be, the ability to speak the local Nanjing language will surely be a plus for her to act as a peacemaker between conflicting residents. "I need to understand the local language before I can be a qualified mediator," she said.

Future plans

Kinahan found that mediators in China, compared with their counterparts in South Africa, play an effective role in dispute resolution "with no lawsuits and low costs."

She decided to spend five additional years to gain more profound knowledge and experience of mediation procedures, and hopes that eventually she will be able to launch a training program for professional mediators.

No accounting for Jim Rogers

By Annie Wei

Jim Rogers, 66, the US stock-market guru, known by local investors for his activities in the Chinese stock market, became frustrated by the Chinese banking system.

Last week, Rogers visited Beijing and Shanghai and planned to print out his bank account details at the China Industry and Commercial Bank and Bank of China.

When he was in Beijing, he went to China Industry and Commercial Bank and Bank of China outlets near his hotel. The bank staff told him that they could not help him with his account details because his bank account was opened in Shanghai, but he was welcome to use the ATM.

With limited Chinese skills, Rogers finally got his bank account details from the machine with the help of a local friend.

After selling his house in New York, he moved to Singapore. Rogers always wanted to change his mailing address from the US to Singapore and his bank account information. However, the banks in Singapore and Beijing told him he could not update his account info because his original bank account was in Shanghai.

Rogers did not solve his problems easily in Shanghai either. The Bank of China in Shanghai easily updated his information but the



Rogers had no idea about the rules in Chinese banks.

Photo by Yang Qing

experience with China's Industrial and Commercial Bank was a very different story.

The staff at this particular bank in Shanghai Pudong Xinqu found it frustrating that Rogers wanted to update his mailing address.

"It's not a credit card but a debit card. Why does he need to update his mailing address since we are not going to mail him anything," the bank said.

The third China Industrial and Commercial Bank that Rogers visited in Shanghai agreed to update his information but Rogers' new passport became a fly in the ointment.

Rogers' bank account information was registered using his old passport number. The bank said that if the passport number was changed to a new one, it inferred that Rogers' bank account had expired.

After long explanations and negotiations, the bank finally updated Rogers' mailing address and his bank account personal information. The study in frustration took about three hours.

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How Does It Work?

Pixel skin resurfacing is based on the principle of micro thermal treatment zones. The laser pulses create tiny ablative zones, removing the epidermis and upper dermis. The treatment then triggers the body's natural healing process, stimulating the growth of new, healthy skin tissue.

The procedure treats the small zones of skin, leaving surrounding tissue untouched and intact. These large unaffected areas act as a reservoir for more effective and rapid tissue healing and collagen production. The bottom line: new, healthier, smoother tissue in place of skin imperfections.

What To Expect?

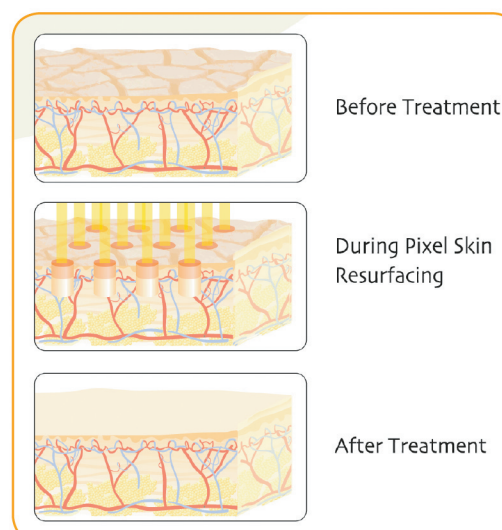
Your physician will determine the ideal treatment plan for your needs. Generally, treatment involves two to four sessions, at four-week intervals. Right after treatment you may feel a light tingling sensation. You may experience slight swelling for a day or two. As new skin replaces dead tissue, your skin will flake, a sign that healing is underway. Your skin will look better immediately, and will steadily improve over the next few months.

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Beijing Actors Workshop blossoms under US tutelage



Bai Wei and Will, amateur actors, doing a live improvisation.

Photo provided by the Beijing Actors' Workshop

By He Jianwei

A US instructor and actor will bring the principles and methods of acting to a Beijing Actors Workshop on January 27 for the amateurs and experienced.

Glen Sparer, a Meisner and Chekhov-trained instructor with 25 years of acting, teaching and acting research experience in New York and Europe, will offer two distinct levels of workshop programs from this Sunday, each of which will last 12 weeks.

The basic class is specially-designed for people who have no acting or performing experience, "especially health-care professionals and businessmen," Sparer said.

The teacher will offer an alternative approach he describes as closer to the art of acting and the art of living. The workshop is designed to release the natural acting abilities and characters within each person.

In the basic classes, the participants will develop the feeling and

sensation of ease, access emotions through sensation and atmosphere, exercise the rhythm and tempo in movement and speech and speak to a public audience.

"I will tell people how to control energy and let them know the head thinks through the body," he said.

Sparer believes the most important thing for ordinary people, especially health-care professionals and businessmen, is the ability to listen to others and respond truthfully.

"We must learn how to connect with a person when we communicate with him or her, so that the communication will be efficient," he said.

Sparer believes that the atmosphere a person faces in his or her daily work schedule is similar with the atmosphere in a theater. "A good actor will get information from the audience and adjust the content of his or her presentation according to the audience's

response," he said.

The participants in the basic class will spend two and half hours every week in class and practice their own outside.

Sparer hopes the participants in the basic class will gain confidence and efficiency when communicating with others.

He will also open a performance workshop for actors with experience or some kind of performing arts background. These students will perform in a stage production in the middle of May.

In this workshop, the participants will finish a play based on John Cassavetes' 1959 film, *Shadows*, and showcase it at Yugong Yishan after three months rehearsal.

In the play, he noticed a similarity between the 1960s' New York rendition and 2008's Beijing version. "The cultural diversity in 1960s' New York is similar with the globalization in 2008's Beijing," he said.

He aims to seek out what the real communication is between the two cultures and whether globalization is good or bad. *Shadow* is like a mask or veil that separates us, so we will try to penetrate it and find what truth lies within it," he said.

Sparer believes that good actors are those who are willing to learn and open their minds. "If you open your mind, you can receive new ideas. If an actor thinks acting is just motions, he or she becomes the hardest to teach," he said.

The Beijing Actor Workshop founded in January 2005 is a non-profit organization run by an enthusiastic team of volunteers and aims to offer stimulating workshops for developing acting skills, produce performances of a high artistic caliber, build a strong creative and fun workshop culture and offer a creative platform for actors, writers and directors to exchange ideas.

Chopping the chopstick

By Annie Wei

According to Greenpeace's research, China produced 13.4 billion pairs of chopsticks in 1999 and the number jumped to 63.5 billion in 2006.

It is time to call on more consumers to be aware of environment damage that unwise consuming habits can produce. As a result, Greenpeace started a campaign attacking disposable chopsticks in October 2007. Ma Lichao, 28, Greenpeace member responsible for this campaign, said.

During the campaign, the organization worked with several dining websites to promote the importance of not using disposable chopsticks.

Fangtongwang, one of the leading Websites that provides restau-

rant reviews and discounts to its members from over 8,000 restaurants in town, encourages restaurants to use sterilized chopsticks instead of disposable ones.

At the same time, Greenpeace is calling on individual consumers not to use disposable chopsticks but carry a pair of their own when dining out.

"So far, over 15,000 individuals have said that they would stop using disposable chopsticks," Ma said.

As the campaign continues, Ma and his colleagues found out that it would not be an easy task to change consumers' habits.

"Many restaurants admitted that they could only provide disposable chopsticks because they could not sterilize chopsticks," Ma said, "But they sterilize other stuff like bowls, plates and spoons."



Greenpeace members call on customers to refuse to use disposable chopsticks.

Photo provided by Greenpeace

"A pair of disposable chopsticks cost one or two yuan, but the wholesale price is only 0.6 or 0.7 yuan," Ma said.

Their research showed that the average restaurant could easily make another 10,000 to

20,000 yuan profit by selling disposable chopsticks to customers.

So the key is to educating consumers to simply say no to disposable chopsticks. Ma said that the campaign would continue through May.

Events

Chilean Film Season

A series of selected movies including *Subterra*, *Cachimba*, *Padre Nuestro*, *Mi Mejor Enemigo* in Spanish with Chinese subtitles is screening from January 21 to 25 at Instituto Cervantes.

Where: A1, Gongti Nan Lu, Chaoyang District

When: January 25, 7 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 5879 9666

China Philharmonic Orchestra

Yang Yang, longtime assistant conductor, takes the helm, conducting Stravinsky's *Pulcharella* and *Firebird Suites* (the latter is from the original Russian 1919 edition), and Scriabin's piano concerto, with soloist Sheng Yuan.

Where: Beijing Concert Hall, 1, Bei Xinhua Jie, Xicheng District

When: January 26, 7: 30 pm - 9: 30 pm

Admission: 30-480 yuan

Tel: 6605 7006

Dance Now Beijing Series

The series aims to provide an opportunity for young choreographers to work on experimental concepts. *See* is choreographed by Liu Bin, and *Whispering Wind* is choreographed by Yao ethnic minority dancer Liu Yifeng.

Where: Haidian Theater, 28 Zhongguancun Dajie, Haidian District

When: January 26, 7: 30 pm

Admission: 100 yuan and 50 yuan for students

Tel: 6255 8026

Book Talk: All Over by Roy Kesey

American writer Roy Kesey will read from and discuss *All Over*, his new collection of short stories. Kesey's previous novella, *Nothing in the World*, earned him both critical acclaim and the Bullfight Little Book prize in 2006. His short fiction was also recently selected by Stephen King for the anthology, *The Best American Short Stories of 2007*.

Where: the Bookworm, 4, Sanlitun Nan Lu, Chaoyang District

When: January 29, 7: 30 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6586 9507

Lecture: The International Situation in 2007

Zhang Tuosheng from China's Center for Strategic Studies, a national-level research center, will look back on the past year and the changes that have taken place in the world. The talk is the eighth in the National Library's ongoing International Knowledge and Chinese Diplomacy series. In Chinese, no English.

Where: National Library, 33, Zhongguancun, Nan Dajie, Haidian District

When: January 29, 9:30 am

Admission: 10 yuan and 5 yuan for students

Tel: 6612 6185

(By Wei Ying)

Traffic tips during Chinese New Year



Beijing West Railway Station is packed with people eager to reunite with families for Chinese New Year.

Photo by Yang Dengfeng

By Cai Jindong

Spring Festival, the traditional family reunification holiday that begins February 7 this year, is packing stations and airports with travelers as people head home.

The number of passengers is estimated to hit a record high during the 40-day travel season, also called the Spring Transportation Period, which begins January 23 and ends March 2. Here is some helpful information before you hit the road:

By air

Starting January 23, passengers are requested to be on board 10 minutes before takeoff. The main door of the plane will be shut at that time.

In addition, given the large volume of passengers and long lines that are increasingly spotted in front of the security check area, it is suggested that pas-

sengers carrying laptops, liquid containers, coats and jackets separate these items from other luggage for a speedier security X-ray check.

Security personnel will also examine things in laptop bags, such as tools for repairing computers, cords and hard disks.

By train

During the travel season, tickets cannot be returned within six hours before the train departs, and can only be changed while the train is at the station. Tickets can only be changed to trains leaving within three days.

The total number of passengers by train is estimated to reach 178.6 million, so be ready for extremely crowded railway stations and platforms if traveling by train is your choice.

By subway in town

The number of passengers

traveling via subway during the Spring Transportation Period is estimated to reach 116 million. The subway company is cooperating with nearby railway and bus stations, as well as the public security department, to ensure transportation security and safety. Make sure you don't carry any combustibles or explosives into the subway stations.

By bus

If you need to journey by trans-provincial bus, Beijing has 14 long-distance bus stations. Three of them have updated their open hours and booking-in-advance policy.

Tickets can be booked 10 days in advance from 6:30 am to 10:30 pm during the travel season at Bawangfen Bus Station. The open hours for Muxiyuan Bus Station are from 5:30 am to 7 pm, but you can only buy

tickets three days in advance. Xinfadi Bus Station has the same open hours as Muxiyuan, and tickets can be purchased four days in advance.

More detailed information is available at ctqcp.com. You can also call 6497 1618 for the nearest ticket agent.

Bawangfen Long Distance Bus Station

Where: 17, Xidawang Lu, Chaoyang District

Tel: 8771 8844 ext. 24

Muxiyuan Long Distance Bus Station

Where: 199, Haihutun, Yongdingmen Wai Dajie, Fengtai District

Tel: 6726 7149, 6723 4767

Xinfadi Long Distance Bus Station

Where: Fengnan Lu, Fengtai District

Tel: 8372 7679, 8372 7241

Local hospitals to provide special medical aids during Olympics

By Li Fenghua

Deputy Director General of Beijing Health Bureau Deng Xiaohong said on Monday that three hospitals were required to provide a special accounts settlement service to guarantee that foreign patients can pay by credit card.

The Sino-Japanese Friendship Hospital, Anzhen Hospital and Beijing Union Medical College Hospital (Xiehe Hospital) will be appointed to provide these special accounts settlement services with foreign commercial insurance companies for foreign patients during the Games.

Xu Shuo, the international medical department director from the Sino-Japanese Friendship Hospital, said the hospital had established steady cooperation with dozens of international insurance companies as early as in 1997.

During the Olympic Games, new service windows for international medical account settle-

ments will be open for foreign patients, Xu said.

Patients who are customers of these insurance companies can pay with credit card after confirming their identification. The accounts settlement will be handled by the hospital in conjunction with the insurance company.

If the patient's insurance company does not cooperate with the hospital, then the part of the bill which can be eliminated will be settled according to the insurance contract. "In such a case, more communication with the insurance company will be needed and the patients can file some forms to get reimbursement, if it's OK," Xu said.

Another measure taken by the government is that manuals about emergency treatments will be available in places such as the Olympic venues, the Media Village, airports and railway stations.

These manuals, with vivid pic-



The Union Hospital has a history of 85 years with a reputable foreign wing.

Photo by Su Mahe

tures illustrating basic medical emergency treatments, medical flow charts and familiar medical symptoms, will be provided in eight languages.

Sino-Japanese Friendship Hospital

Where: 2 Yinghuadong Street, Chaoyang District

Tel: 8420 5566

Anzhen Hospital

Where: Anzhenli, Andingmen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District

Tel: 6441 2431

Beijing Union Medical College Hospital (Xiehe Hospital)

Where: 1 Shuaifuyuan, Dongcheng District

Tel: 6529 6114

ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to: weiyang@ynet.com

I found a dress on the Internet that I really like. Where can I find someone who can make a wedding dress from a picture?

There are several wedding dress design companies that can make dresses according to a client's needs.

Where: 16A Xianggangge, Duhuihuating, 3 Shilipu, Chaoyang district.

Tel: 8514 0105

Building 62, Yuan-yangtiandi, Chaoyang District.

Tel: 8586 1547

13120498516

Where: 19 Xi Dwang Lu, Chaoyang District

Tel: 8795 4516

I am thinking of taking a trip to Yangshuo during Spring Festival. I've never been there before. Does anyone have any recommendations? By train is the cheapest, of course. Can anyone offer a quotation for around five days from February 6 to the 10? And where is the cheapest place to stay? Will Spring Festival be a hot time for tourists?

Since the May Day holiday has been cancelled, Spring Festival will be a hot traveling season for a long line trip. There are lots of cheap hostels in the West Street area of Yangshuo. Also, there are lots of travel agencies offering bike rentals, tours and activities like rafting and balloon rides. Be sure to rent a bike for a day and travel around the countryside. You can check the details from Yangshuo's official tour web yangshuotour.com. But it will be very difficult to get a train ticket to go anywhere during Spring Festival. Besides, you will have to spend two days on the train just to get to Guilin. And you cannot buy return tickets, so as soon as you arrive, you will have to line up to buy your ticket back to Beijing. You can spend two days on the train or you can get there in three hours by plane.

Since moving to Beijing, we have had weird things happening to our laundry. Several items of dark clothing have come up with white stripes on them after washing and these stripes are quite straight. Does anyone know what is causing this?

These white stripes are caused by a substance called zeolite, which is used to soften water especially in countries with very hard water like Beijing. Also, cheaper washing powders include a lot of extra chemicals which remain in the machine. Try finish salt and change your washing powder to something more expensive or imported. Washing your clothes in plenty of water helps to melt these pesky stripes, as well. You can easily find finish salt, which is used to soften water, at Carrefour or any other "expat" shop and it is not that expensive.

(By Li Fenghua)

A ten-minute

The Shifen Theater Festival stirred the expat community with its new way of participating in 12 performances. Paul Benjamin Taylor, one of the participants, said he teamed up with Elyse Ribbons a month ago. The Beijing Playhouse, one of the main English theaters in town, also took part in the game. Executive director, Chris Verrill, said it was the first English theater festival in town, and his theater had to get involved.

The festival created a community style for the theater, especially for expats. "Elyse often said foreign artists in Beijing should always work together," Verrill said, and the festival was proof worked.

Many people went to see the show. The free admission

made it possible for the community to expand their social circles and make new friends. "The festival was so wonderful," Jack Thurderman, a student in Beijing Language and Culture University, said, "One of my friends told me about it and I came with some other friends. This made the environment like home. We cheered at their acting, and then, made many new friends."

Elyse Ribbons, the festival's organizer, said the show unfolded just as she expected. The Beijing Opera and Japanese modern dance numbers added many different colors to the festival. Thurderman admitted at first he was expecting only a theater-style show, but he enjoyed various stage performances and that was also what Ribbons expected.

By Gan Tian

The Shifen Theater Festival, produced by Club in 798 last Saturday evening, with 12 plays presented in Chinese and English. As to the vibrance to the contemporary art scene in Beijing, it is hard to participate. Beijing Today presents parts of the festival. This is telling you how they managed to do it.

Olympic Spirit 101

Paul Benjamin Taylor presented his short play in one act, *Olympic Spirit 101*, with his two daughters. The story takes place in Taylor's living room. His daughters, Blysse and Ellie, are sharing their experiences at a Chinese school and are discussing the Olympics, Americans and Chinese.

Written by Paul Benjamin Taylor
Blysse: A bunch of kids made fun of me for being an American. The teacher was talking about the Olympics and said that America is really strong.

Ellie: What did he say?

Blysse: Tashuo: "Meiguo aolin-pike yingle henduoci." Ranhou, wo qianmian de nage nansheng dui woshuo women Meiguo hen bu hao."

(Making pointing gestures like the boys) "Meiguo bu hao! Meiguo bu hao! Laoying! Wo taoyan nimen!"(1)

Ellie: Meiguo cai hao! Tamen weishenme shuo Meiguo bu hao?

Benjamin: So, let me see if I caught that ... the teacher said that the US has won at the Olympics many times, and the boy in front of you said America is bad and China is going to beat America this time?

Blysse: Yeah, but he was pointing at me when he said it, and all his friends started pointing at me saying, "Meiguo buhao! Meiguo bu hao!"(2) Maybe, they just hate me!

Benjamin: Well, I don't know about that ...

Ellie: Taoyan tamen(3)
Blysse: Anyway, then we had a school festival and the some basketball players came to visit us.

Benjamin: Really? What team were they from?

Blysse: Uh ... I'm not sure. I think they said Magic or something...

Benjamin: (Incredulously) Magic!?! They were from the Orlando Magic!?! From the NBA?! And they were just across the street? How come I didn't know about this? How many of them were there?

Blysse: (Somewhat surprised) that her dad seems so impressed! There were five of them. They played a game with some big Chinese kids from some other school. Our school doesn't have any big kids yet 'cuz it's too new. The Chinese kids actually played really well.

Benjamin: Wow. I can't believe that they picked your school to visit.

Blysse: Why not? They use my school for all kinds of things like that. I guess we're some kind of model school for Chaoyang or something. One time they came and filmed us sewing something, and it was really funny, cause first they filmed every-one while they were passing out some sewing materials to all the kids, and then they took them all away. Then they passed out a bunch of finished ones and filmed us again, like we just sewed them.

(1) He said, "The US has won many Olympics gold medals." Then the boy sitting in front me said the US is bad! The US is bad because you have won too many times!

(2) The US is good! Why did they say this?

(3) I hate them!

Introduction to all the actors & actresses

Taylor said everything in this 10-minute play had happened in his actual life. His daughter Blysse Taylor, 10, and Elyssia Taylor, seven, are now attending Xinglong Primary School, a regular Chinese school, instead of international schools, which inspired him to write this story.

To help his two daughters overcome their nervousness was an interesting challenge. As Taylor had been teaching public speaking himself for years, he had his own theory. "I told my daughters that there are only 30 seconds when you feel nervous. When you get past this 30 seconds, you get over everything," he said. It turned out his daughters' acting skills were brilliant, and the show was a great success. The father was very pleased and expects that they will start something big in the near future.

Taylor had written movie scripts before, but he found that writing a ten-minute play was just as difficult. He mentioned a movie had more plots and more complex storylines, but in a short play, the conflicts were on a smaller scale.

Interesting Times by
Alex Pasternack &
Neil Ellingson

ute theater festival

the Cheeky Monkey Theater, took place at the Yan pieces of performance art, modern dance and short he first ten-minute theater festival in town, it added Beijing, allowing both foreigners and locals to par- vo scripts in the show and the playwrights behind d to make each 10-minute play come alive.

Das Photo Shoot

Written by Elyse Ribbons

(Models already in position on stage left, Hans is fiddling with a camera, lights go up)

Hans: Ja, OK, that ist good ja ... OK, zee light is perfect, (thinking) we take picture now!

Elyse: Great! (rushes over to models) Guangxian xianzai feichang hao, zanmen zhunbei pai zhaopian!(1)

Models: (nodding) Hao. (2)

Elyse: OK, Hans, please let me know if there is anything you need ...

Hans: Just let me know how much time we have before the sun is to go down.

Elyse: Er ...

Hans: Yes, what-what?

Elyse: Um, we've got another 9 minutes, sir.

Hans: Scheise! OK, ja, we shoot, we shoot now. (mumbles to himself) perfect light ... OK, OK ... no, (puts down camera) not OK. This is all wrong ...

Elyse: What is wrong?

Hans: What are they doing? (points at models)

Elyse: Um, modeling?

Hans: No, look at them, LOOK at them!

Elyse: (looks) Uh ...

Hans: (sigh) Look, zey are wooden, like statues. Like statues made. Of. Wood. I did not come to take photo of statues, I wanted people!

Elyse: Um, ok, (turns to models) Nimen tai xiang mutou le. Xiangdiaokede mutou. Nimen yao linghuo yidianr, ying-gai geng xiangr en. (3)

M1: Xiangrenne? (4)

M2: Women jiushi ren. (5)

Elyse: Dui ... Ta jiu yao ni geng xiangren. (6)

M: (nod) hao.

Elyse: OK, they are ready.

Hans: (takes another couple of shots) What? No, zis is awful, what are zey doing? Zey need to be more fluid. Flow more. You know, like, like water, ja?

Elyse: OK ... (to models) Geng ziran, xiang liushui yiyang. (7)

M: (confused, starts wobbling like water)

Hans: What? No! What are they doing? Why are zey swimming like zis? I did not tell them to swim?

(1) Lights are fine. Let's get started.

(2) Okay.

(3) You look like wood. You should appear natural, like people.

(4) Like people?

(5) But we are people.

(6) He wants you to be more people-like.

(7) More natural, like water.

Back Stage

Interesting Times by
Alex Pasternack &
Neil Ellingson

Elyse Ribbons, Shifen Theater Festival organizer and creator of Cheeky Monkey Theater, wrote, directed and acted in *Das Photoshoot*, a play in which a crazy German photographer tries to photograph some Chinese models. Elyse Ribbons play a translator who tries to bridge the cultural divide with hilarious results.

Ribbons said that it was lead actor Georg Tschbull who originally inspired her to write such a story. Tschbull, an Austrian, could easily fake a German accent and could also help to translate the necessary lines into German. In the script, Ribbons made sure to emphasize this accent in the way she spelled the words. "Georg was amazing, he really had fun with his role," Elyse said, "Sometimes it was really hard not to crack up laughing during rehearsals!" Capturing a German accent in the language of the script was pretty easy for Ribbons, as she had a Swiss-German boyfriend once and often visits her best friend Tingting – the Chinese roommate that the character in *I Heart Beijing* was based on – in Germany.

The story came to life as Ribbons, beautiful as she is, had also been a model before she started her theater career. "There was a Japanese photographer who thought very highly of himself and it was a very painful experience for the translators and everything," she said. "However, it did result in some really funny miscommunications and that's what made the idea perfect for the stage."

To create a story in ten minutes is just the same as doing one that lasts three hours. "First I set up a character, and then the storyline. The most important thing is to think of a good story that fits within the time frame," Ribbons said. The ease of her writing style, she claimed, comes from the fact that these sto-

ries are all based on the reality of her life, or the lives of those around her. She loves talking to people, from taxi drivers, friends at a coffee shop, to people on the bus or just while waiting in line. From these people, Ribbons always found some interesting stories.

To create realistic characters, she relied on her earlier anthropology studies, from which she learned how to capture people's behavior through simple observation. "I have always enjoyed observing the world around me, and Beijing makes for a fantastic muse," Ribbons said. Chris Verrill, executive director of the Beijing Playhouse, praised her works. "I think Elyse is a very good writer. She did well in capturing people's lives in China, especially that of foreigners," Verrill said.

Combining German, English and Chinese in one short play, Ribbons did not worry at all that the audiences might not understand. "In this comedy, body language was the most important factor," She said, "The audience will understand everything just by looking at the actors." And the actors are as important as the script itself. She was very keen to point out how impressed she was by the talent she saw on the stage. Essential to the development of performance art and theater in China is the support of sponsors like the Yan Club. Ribbons noted "that they provided the perfect environment for this kind of event and were a great help for everything,"

Happy Birthday to
Me by Hanare Gum

What's your alibi for avoiding Latin?

Latin may be a dead language, but that doesn't change how, for more than a thousand years, it was the lingua franca of western Europe. Poems, prose and histories were penned in Latin rather than the common tongue.

Today, Latin rarely rears its head aside from a few judges issuing writs of habeas corpus or a handful of "E pluribus unum" in one's pocket. Few high schools offer Latin courses, and as of 30 years ago, the number of students sitting the US national Latin exam was down to 6,000 – an extreme decline from 100 years earlier, when Latin was mandatory curriculum.

But author Harry Mount, a former Oxford classics reader and Latin tutor-turned editorial writer, aims to change this trend with *Carpe Diem: Put a Little Latin in Your Life* (272pp, Hyperion, US \$13.57).

Mount has quite a challenge if he aims to teach the language to

someone with no background in Latin, let alone in any Romance language, in seven chapters. While the book can introduce any reader to the language of the classics, he should not expect to fluently read the classics by page 272.

To Mount's credit, he does not pretend his book is for the reader just out to learn Latin. Readers, after a straightforward text that stays on the language and doesn't wander onto tangents, would be better served with a copy of Benjamin Kennedy's *Latin Primer*, the de facto Latin book of the last century, he said.

His book offers something Kennedy's does not: bits of Roman history, culture and cute stories to keep the reader interested and reminded about why he is studying Latin, and when dragging one's eyes through a language text, interest matters.

Mount presents an argument, packed in between the vocabulary and grammar tables and stories, to

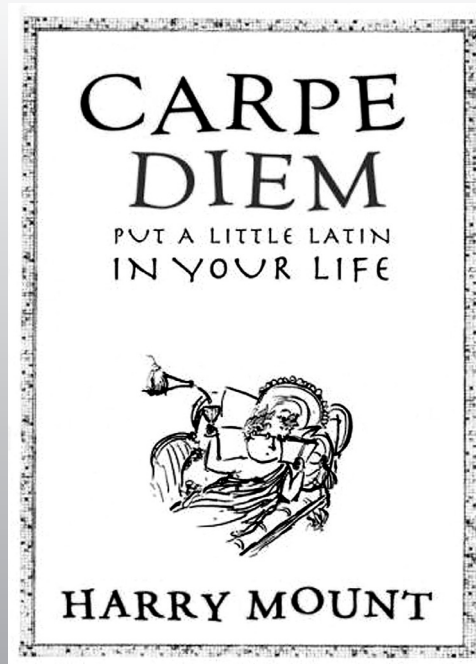
bring Latin education back to most schools. Latin opens the doors to more than a millennium of history that no translation can truly equal.

But this isn't the cornerstone of his argument: you should learn Latin because Thomas Jefferson did. While Jefferson is certainly an important person and his most-thumbed book was a copy of *The Aeneid*, his Latin background is not necessarily why he was so successful – a non sequitur if ever there was.

One thing all reviewers seem to agree on: the modus operandi in buying this book should be caveat emptor. The book is not a new Latin grammar: it is a limited crash course with enough side attractions to make the ride a lot of fun.

At the very least, its helpful grammar tips may save one's balls the next time his alter ego is threatened by a centurion for butchering the grammar of "Romani ite domum."

(By Derrick Sobodash)



Mozart, the Eternal Classicist

By Charles Zhu

I like the stormy outbursts of anger and cries of Beethoven, but find the sentimental and expressive melodies of Mozart even more enjoyable. In the wake of extravagant celebrations to mark the 250th anniversary of Mozart's birth, the classically-recognized *W. A. Mozart* (1,600pp, Yale University Press, US \$55) by Hermann Abert is available in English.

The book is an artistic blessing for music lovers, students and scholars. It was translated by Stewart Spencer and edited by Cliff Eisen, a contemporary Mozart scholar.

Eisen, in the introduction, notes some disagreements with Abert.

The original author said because of Mozart's social circumstances, commercial conditions, his patrons and the general public, Mozart's music expresses himself. "Mozart was a keen observer of mankind, and boundlessly empathetic, but what he expressed in his music was us, not himself," Eisen said.

While Abert said that it is impossible to separate Mozart's music from himself, Eisen countered that as an artist, Mozart was skilled at manipulating his audience – drawing them in to create art not for self expression, but to empower his listeners to express

themselves.

Mozart's is a compelling story.

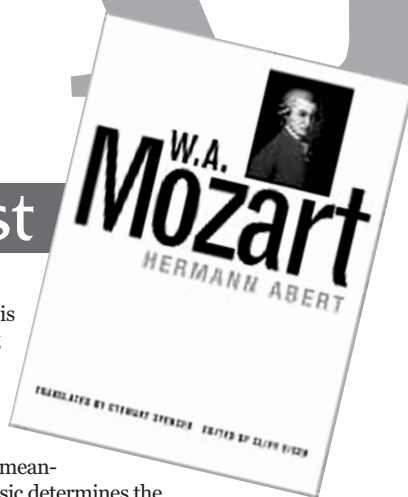
To whom and to what we attribute the meaning in his music determines the thrust and trajectory of the narrative, not its substance and not its effect. It is a story that can be read and told many ways. No matter what our view of Mozart's creative personality, his music resonates strongly with all his listeners.

Mozart's art, to pre-Eisen Mozart scholars, is like a mosaic made up of a series of influences to which he succumbed in the course of his life as a result of chance. This rationalistic desire, Eisen said, is quite separate from the fatal error to see genius as the sum total of the influences that affect it.

How did Mozart choose which of his many models to adopt? Which elements did he appropriate from them and make his own?

These questions go unanswered, but they do not stand in the way of Abert's understanding of Mozart's genius.

This scholarly overview by Eisen can help deepen our understanding of Mozart's music and is a rare gift to all who love Mozart's art.



Bookworm book listing

Jenny Niven from the Bookworm has the lowdown on three of the newest releases listed at the Sanlitun cafe.

The Unknown Terrorist

By Richard Flanagan, 336 pp, Grove Press, 240 yuan

After a night spent with an attractive stranger, Gina Davies becomes a prime suspect in the investigation of an attempted terrorist attack. In *The Unknown Terrorist*, the writer turns his attention to the most timely of subjects – what our leaders tell us about the threats against us, and how we cope with living in fear.

The Secret

By Rhonda Byrne, 198 pp, Atria Books/Beyond Words, 200 yuan

The Secret contains wisdom from modern-day teachers – men and women who have used it to achieve health, wealth and happiness. By

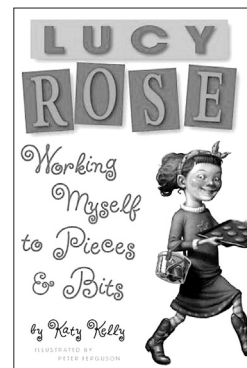
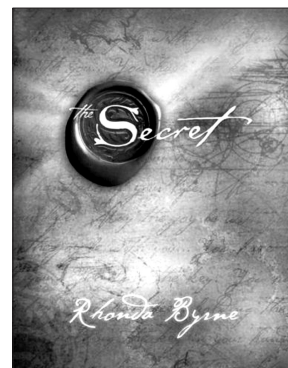
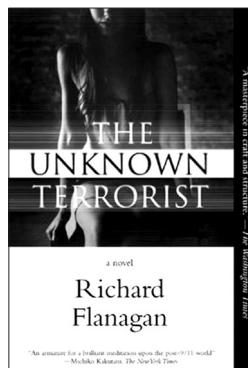
applying the knowledge of *The Secret*, they bring to light compelling stories of eradicating disease, acquiring massive wealth, overcoming obstacles and achieving what many would regard as impossible.

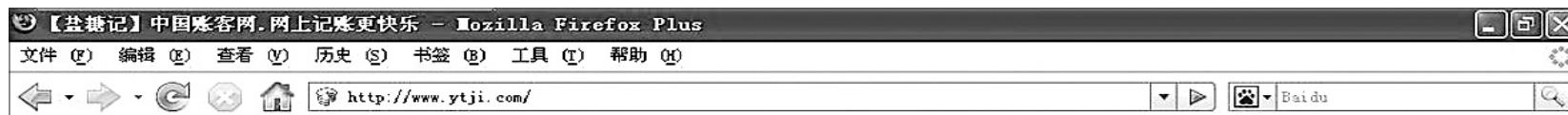
Lucy Rose: Working Myself to Pieces and Bits

By Katy Kelly, 208 pp, Delacorte Books for Young Readers, 105 yuan

This fourth entry in Kelly's diary-format series follows Lucy Rose from Christmas vacation through fourth grade. She tries to figure out how to deal with a bully while putting considerable time and thought into ways to help family friends realize their dream of opening a bakery. Readers new to the series might have trouble figuring out Lucy Rose's complicated network of extended family and friends, but the plot is strong enough to shine through any confusion.

(By He Jianwei)





Kicking

the paycheck-to-paycheck habit

By He Jianwei

Since the middle of last year, housing costs and the consumer price index have risen steadily. Young office workers who live paycheck to paycheck have been most impacted by the squeeze.

Dozens of websites have started to provide expense-tracking services last year. Many of the country's young office workers, eager to find ways to stretch their starting salaries, have signed on to record their daily spendings.

Photo by Zhang Han

Ways to save money

Leon Zhang, 24, a bank employee, joined the work force two years ago, and for the past 24 months, he has blown 100 percent of his income every month. He started recording his bills on a Web site when one of his friends suggested it six months ago.

Before he started to keep track of his expenses, he felt his earnings were not enough. "It is difficult for me not to spend everything by the end of month. I had to tighten my belt, and was eager to expect the coming of the payday," he said.

The rent for house, board expenses and repayment of loans have taken over 90 percent in his overall expense. His expense on entertainment in his spare time was less than 200 yuan every month, including buying some newspapers or magazines or inviting his friends to dinner.

"Before I started tracking my expenses, I didn't know where all the money went," he said.

To record all his daily expenses on the Web site — from expensive purchases like a cell phone to newspapers that cost less than 1 yuan — took only a few minutes every day.

"When I looked back at what I spent, it reminded me I have to save money the rest of the month," he said.

Careful spending

For most users, the sites offer

a platform to help regulate their shopping habits.

"When I'm happy, I like to go shopping; when I feel sad, I like to go shopping," Lin Hua, an office worker in a software company and self-professed "shopaholic," said.

Lin puts all monthly purchases on her credit card. It isn't until the end of the month when the bank issues her statement that she realizes how much she spent.

"When my bill comes, I usually can't remember where I bought anything. I tell myself I won't spend any month the next month, but I can't help

shopping," she said.

Recording her shopping habits online helped her to bring her spending habits back under control.

She said the Web site experience is like having a support group. "I remind myself everyday not to spend so much, but the other users on the Web site can also see my expense and also remind me," she said.

Learning from others

Users can share more shopping information than just their end expenses.

Some post about where to find the cheapest merchandise, ways to save money, which shopping centers are running specials and how much the discount could save.

"After I post my own expenses, I like to scan through others' bills. I can learn from their shopping experiences," she said.



Tracking expenses

There are two kinds of expense tracking websites: those which keep bills private and those where peers can review each others' bills.

These Chinese websites provide bill tracking services:

Caike Zaixian: coko365.com
 Ni You Qian: niyouqian.com
 Wangluo Zhangben: billmap.com
 Mogu Wang: gmogu.com
 Zhongguo Zhangke Wang: jizhangla.com
 Wo Licai: 51c.cn
 Wangluo Zhangben: allmoneygomyhome.com
 Qianbao Wang: qian8ao.com
 Suansuankan: suansuankan.com
 Yan Tang Ji: ytji.com
 Liu Shui Zhang: liushuizhang.com

By Han Manman

Nutritionists and doctors, who have looked to the Far East for healthy eating habits, are now re-examining the Mediterranean diet and its primary ingredients: legumes. One of the most common legumes are chickpeas.

The chickpea, also known as the garbanzo, may be native to the Orient, but has been a Mediterranean Basin staple for hundreds of years. Though common throughout Italy, chickpeas are primarily grown in the south because they require high temperatures during the summer months. Once harvested, the chickpeas are hung to dry, and their seeds are gathered and set aside.



Crazy for chickpeas

Things you don't know about the chickpeas



Nutrition

Chickpeas are an excellent source of protein – specifically, proteins devoid of purines, which are great for those with gout. However, their comparatively high fat content – at least more than other legumes – may put off dieters.

Chickpeas are rich in calcium, and are a good choice with which to combat osteoporosis. They are also rich in iron, and are an excellent source of fiber. Soluble fiber acts

as a scrub brush to clean out the digestive system. It also decreases serum glucose and cholesterol, and lowers the insulin requirements for people with diabetes.

Preparation

Soak dried chickpeas overnight, then simmer for 1 1/2-2 hours. Use twice as much water as dry product. Canned chickpeas are available and may be a more convenient choice.

The easiest way to serve

Heated and drizzled with a

little extra virgin olive oil and seasoned to taste with salt and pepper. Serve them with tuna a tossed salad and white wine for a simple lunch.

A number of recipes call for chickpea flour. It is easy to make: lightly toast chickpeas by heating them in a skillet until they darken slightly, shaking the skillet to move the chickpeas about and prevent burns. Next, grind them in a blender until they reach flour consistency.

Dining out on chickpeas

Biteapitta

Biteapitta, a quality, semi-fast-food restaurant that specializes in Middle Eastern fare, is one of the few falafel places in town and boasts some of the city's cheapest eats.

The simple restaurant has an appealingly informal, almost cafeteria-like air to it. Its offerings start at 2 yuan for a plain pita and remain cheap through a variety of topped pitas and sandwich fillers. A falafel sandwich, priced 10 yuan, is the first choice for many customers.

Although there are other options for falafel and hummus in town, it is hard to beat Biteapitta's. One is the right size for a good snack, and two are plenty to fill an empty stomach.

The falafel and mushroom pita sandwiches served up at this popular eatery are some of the best bargains in Beijing. Run by an Israeli husband and wife, Biteapita does fresh and light Middle Eastern food that is tasty, filling and inexpensive.

Owner Shuly Shabtai found the

inspiration to start her eatery in her own kitchen. In the four years since moving to Beijing, Shabtai has often whipped up her own fresh pita bread or creamy hummus – foods common in Israel but rare in China.

Where: 30 Tiaze Lu (near Nuren Jie, turn at the grape restaurant before the New Get Lucky Bar)

Open: 11 am – 9 pm

Tel: 6467 2961

Raj Indian Restaurant & Bar

A rich, warm-colored decor invites diners into this laid-back Indian restaurant. Expect good renditions of all standard Indian curries and sides. It is famous for chickpea curries. Good for big groups – the head chef is happy to arrange food samplings and customize menu selections.

Where: 31 Gulou Xidajie

Tel: 6401 1675

Open: 10:30 am – 2pm, 4:30 pm – 11:30 pm

Website: raj.com.cn

Options for buying chickpeas

The easiest way to buy chickpeas is precooked. Italian bakers often slip a pot full of chickpeas into the oven when they fire it up to bake bread, and then sell them by the ladle with some liquid so customers can reheat and eat at home.

The next easiest option is to buy them canned. Chickpeas are one of few vegetables whose flavor is not significantly harmed by the commercial canning process.

The final option is to buy them dried and soak them. If you choose this method, check the production date on the package. Old chickpeas may not soften no matter how long they soak.

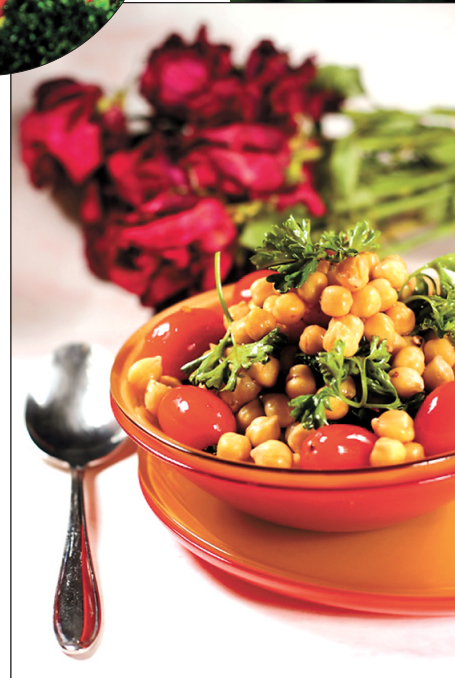


Falafel: Chickpea patties

Falafel is sold on street corners in every city and town in Israel. Some call it the "Israeli hamburger." Students living on a budget consume full-portion falafels in whole pitas on the sidewalks as their noon "dinner."

How to make it: 500 grams canned chickpeas (drained), 1 large onion, chopped, 2 tbsp. finely chopped parsley, 1 egg, 1 tsp. salt, 1/2 to 1 cup breadcrumbs or fine bulgur (crushed wheat), 1 tsp. ground coriander or cumin, 1 tsp. dried hot peppers, 1 tsp. garlic powder, vegetable oil (for frying).

Combine the chickpeas with the onion. Add parsley, a lightly-beaten egg and spices. Mix it all in a blender. Add the breadcrumbs until the mixture forms a small ball without sticking to your hands. Form the chickpea mixture into small balls about 2 centimeters in diameter. Flatten the patties slightly and fry until golden brown on both sides. Drain the falafel balls on paper towels and serve individually with toothpicks or as a sandwich filling with chopped tomato, cucumber, radish, lettuce, onion, hummus and tehina inside pita bread. Makes about 24 falafel balls.



Shopping free plastic

By Gan Tian

Plastic bags will no longer be free in Beijing starting this June – just in case you may have missed the big news. It is time to get with the program, and get with the fashion. You do not want to be the last one without a stylish sack when the bag ban takes effect, do you?

If you want to save money and look good, consider carrying one of these cloth bags during your summer shopping.



X-girl

Despite the name, this X-girl bag will not make you one of the X-men. Don't embarrass yourself trying to control fire or ice at the market.

United Arrows

Black and white squares are a fashion that never fades.



Coach

This Coach bag looks like it was stitched together from different colored pieces of cloth. It can help remind you of sunshine, ocean, beach and beauty.



Prada

It looks like a purse instead of a bag, but carrying Prada to the vegetable market is a little odd.



Kate Spade

This brown bag is nothing new, and is only decorated with a couple flower petals. It is a little bit childish. Admit it!



Another Edition

The bag is knitted with thick rope. It looks like a cluster of colorful rattan, and is perfect for conveying your environmentalist attitude. The colorful ropes will make you a little princess at the market.



Felix Ray

This one is great for couples. The red heart pattern is decorated with what a lesser newspaper may describe as "bling bling" reflectors.

Ray Beams

If you think this bag is nothing special, look closer. It is woven from purple and green thin, long grasses.



Che Che

The dark colors on this grass bag are not terribly attractive. Spruce up its appearance by toting colorful oranges, bananas or apples inside!



Jamin Puech

The sunflowers on this bag are a nice reminder of the environmentalist attitude that has you carrying it. However, you can also pretend to be a fan of Van Gogh. However, cramming vegetables in this bag is a little bit ... hard!



Tips on trendy bags

- No matter whether you choose a woven, grass or cloth bag, keep in mind that the most fashionable thing is to be an environmentalist, so choose something natural.

- Most bags recommended here are not available from local retail outlets. Search Taobao.com if you are interested in purchasing one.

- There are many alternatives if you think big names are expensive. There are good cloth bags in the creative market that are designed

by students in the Central Academy of Fine Arts or other design institutes.

- No matter which bag you choose, make sure the handles are securely stitched to the bag so heavier goods will not break it.

- Carry foldable cloth bags wherever you go. They are convenient.

- You can even make your own cloth bag from an old, tattered pair of jeans.

Hotel

"Pre-Olympic Vacation" Packages

Five-day/four-night "Pre-Olympic Vacation" packages are offered at all four Shangri-Las in Beijing. The four specially-designed themed packages give leisure travelers insight into the multi-faceted Chinese capital in the lead-up to the 2008 Olympic Games.

All four packages feature visits to Olympic sites such as the Bird's Nest and Water Cube. Highlights of the "Art and Sport" package include a

Peking Opera School tour, dinner at the late Peking Opera Master Mei Lanfang's private mansion and a tour of the renowned 798 Art District, a hub of Chinese contemporary art.

Guests booking the "History and Architecture" package will visit and learn about the capital's iconic historic attractions.

A sampling of the "Wine and Dine" package's culinary adventures includes a tour of the Lotus Market, visits to

classical and contemporary Chinese restaurants and cooking lessons.

The "Sight and Shop" package features guided shopping excursions tailored to those interested in traditional Chinese arts and crafts, furniture, silk and pearls.

When: available until June 30

Cost: 18,500-22,500 yuan (for each package)

Website: shangri-la.com (for reservations)



Dining

Senses – Spring Roll

There are mouth-watering rolls from different Asian destinations. Enjoy Japanese temaki hand rolls, tortillas filled with smoked salmon or sticky mango rice rolls for those with a sweet tooth.

If you spend 300 yuan, you can try your chances on the lucky tree. A surprise awaits!

Where: Senses, the Westin Beijing, 9B Financial Street, Xicheng

When: 6 am – noon, February 1-29

Cost: 248 yuan (+15 percent)
Tel: 6629 7810



Love is in the Air

Create sweet and unforgettable memories with your valentine at VIC on Tuesday February 14, 2008. The semi-buffet dinner includes three main course choices, a glass of rose sparkling wine, free flowing of soft drinks and fantastic gifts for ladies and gentlemen.

Where: VIC, Wanda Plaza, 93 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang

Open: Noon – 2 pm, 6 pm – 10 pm

Cost: 999 yuan (per couple)

Tel: 8599 6666 ext 6521



Nightlife



Keerman 2008 Flamenco New Year Concert

Keerman, the fine guitarist from Xinjiang, who used to headline at the Star's monthly For The Love of Guitar event, performs in his solo concert.

Keerman, known as the first young flamenco guitarist, presents his second solo concert at Star Live after his

debut in the For the Love of Guitar show.

Where: Star Live, F/3, Tangguo, 79 Heping Xi Jie, Dongcheng

When: 8 pm, January 27
Admission: 40 yuan (Advance), 50 yuan (Door)
Tel: 6425 5677



Andy Moor – The World's No 30 DeeJay

Andy Moor was just nominated for his remix of Delerium – Angelicus in the category of Best Remixed Recordings, Non-Classical at the 50th Annual Grammy Awards.

Cool Dj Agency will present Andy Moor's show in Angel Club.

Where: Angel Club, 6 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang

When: 10 pm – 3 am next day, January 25

Tel: 6552 8888

Bad Mamasan

The new project of Jaime Welton, ex-Dirty Deeds vocalist, spotlights classic heavy metal from the 70s and 80s. The party features Think Sabbath, Motorhead, Judas Priest and Deep Purple.

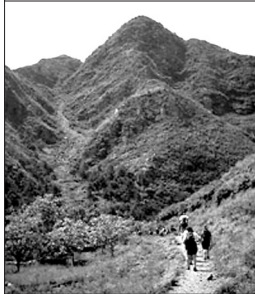
Where: 2 Kolegas Bar, inside the drive-in movie theater park, 21 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: 10 pm
Admission: 30 yuan, January 26

Tel: 8196 4820

Outdoors

Tiresome trek to the train



If anyone from Xi Chang Yu village wants to catch a train, they've got to endure a two-hour hike over the mountain.

It starts with a forty-

five minute climb to a windy ridge where you can enjoy the fantastic view on both sides of the mountain. As you come down the slope, the old village comes into view. This is a very well-cared-for and clean village, and many of the houses are constructed from a distinctively rust-colored type of stone.

The villagers' main industry is growing fruit, which they store in man-made caves on the hillside.

Near the end of the walk the trail takes you through a peach orchard, and in the right season you can pick some fresh and tasty peaches for yourself.

Where: Meet on the ground floor of Starbucks (Jiangtai Lu, Lido Holiday Inn)

When: 8:30 am – 5:30 pm, January 27

Cost: 200 yuan
Tel: 13910025516 (reservations at Beijing Hikers are essential)

Day-trip: Stone Sutra Mountain & Cloud-Dwelling Temple



Yunju Temple (Yunju Si, literally "Temple of Cloud Dwelling"), alternatively Xiyu Temple, is a temple situated at the west side of Shijing (Stone Sutra) Mountain in Fangshan, southwestern Beijing. It is around 75 kilometers from the city center.

The temple complex has some beautiful thousand-

year old pagodas, but is most known for its stone Buddhist scriptures. 14,278 stone slabs dating back a thousand years are stored in the temple. Buddhist scriptures are inscribed on them.

Where: Meet at the Chinese Culture Club (CCC) (Kent Center, 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang) for bus transportation.

When: 9:30 am – 4:30 pm, January 26

Cost: 200 yuan
Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041 (registration at CCC is important) (By Li Jing)

If you have any info for this page, please send it to lixiaojing@ynet.com

China's got a brand new bag

By Li Fenghua

Friend or foe

Plastic shopping bags are among the most ubiquitous consumer items on Earth. Their light weight, low cost and water resistance make them so convenient for carrying groceries, clothing and other routine purchases it's hard to imagine life without them. Weighing just a few grams and averaging a few millimeters in thickness, plastic bags might seem thoroughly innocuous were it not for the sheer number produced. Factories around the world churn out 4-5 trillion of them, ranging from large trash bags and thick shopping

totes to flimsy grocery bags.

Producing plastic bags, unlike paper ones, uses less energy and water and generates less air pollution and solid waste. Many bags never make it to landfills and go airborne after discarded. Plastic bags can be seen hanging from trees, flying through the air on windy days, resting in bushes and floating on rivers. They clog up gutters and drains causing water and sewage to overflow and become the breeding grounds of the germs and bacteria that cause disease.

Bag facts

- Plastic bags start out as crude oil, natural gas or other petrochemical derivatives, which are then transformed into chains of hydrogen and carbon molecules known as polymers or polymer resin. After being heated, shaped, and cooled, the plastic is ready to be flattened, sealed, punched or printed on.

- The first plastic "baggies" for bread, sandwiches, fruits and vegetables were introduced in the US in 1957. Plastic trash bags started to appear in homes and along curbsides around the world by the late 1960s.

- North America and Western Europe account for nearly 80 percent of plastic bag use though bags are increasingly common in developing countries as well.

- A quarter of the plastic bags used in wealthy nations are produced in Asia. China uses up to 3 billion plastic

bags a day, and the country refines 5 million tons, 37 million barrels, of crude oil every year to make the plastics used for packaging.

- Each year, Americans throw away some 100 billion polyethylene plastic bags. Only 0.6 percent of plastic bags are recycled.

- The Irish have referred to the ever-present bags as their "national flag"; South Africans have dubbed them the "national flower."

- China launched a surprise crackdown on plastic bags recently, banning production of ultra-thin bags and forbidding supermarkets and shops from handing out free carriers from June 1. The move brings China in line with a growing international trend to reduce use of plastic bags.

Bag bits

- Health experts say that food – especially cooked food – deteriorates easily in plastic bags, which can cause food poisoning. The gas which the plastics release, along with its longer stay in the airtight bags, gets denser, causing spoilage of foods stored within.

- Most of these bags on the market are produced by small companies or family workshops, which regenerate them from unused plastics, industrial waste or hospital discards. The products go to market without sterilization, which poses a serious health risk.

- Colored plastic bags are much more dangerous since most of them contain organic dyes and are reproduced using recycled waste plastics.

The impurity content of colorful plastic bags is much higher.

- Most plastic bags are made of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) which releases toxins when heated. When the temperature rises to 50 C, the toxins in the plastic ooze out; when it reaches 80 C, the plastics melt and become dangerous.

- Customers can differentiate harmless plastic bags from the baddies according to these characteristics suggested by the experts:

- No peculiar smell.
- Appearing as semi-transparent or transparent.
- Pliable and tough.
- Smooth to touch as if waxed.
- Burn easily.

Bag safety

- Keep canvas bags in your home, office and car so you always have them available when you go to the supermarket or other stores.

- Think twice about taking a plastic bag if your purchase is small and, if you must

use one, choose plastic bags which are made by a well-known company.

- Use freshness preservers to save food instead of plastic bags in refrigerators.

- Do not use colored plastic bags to store food.

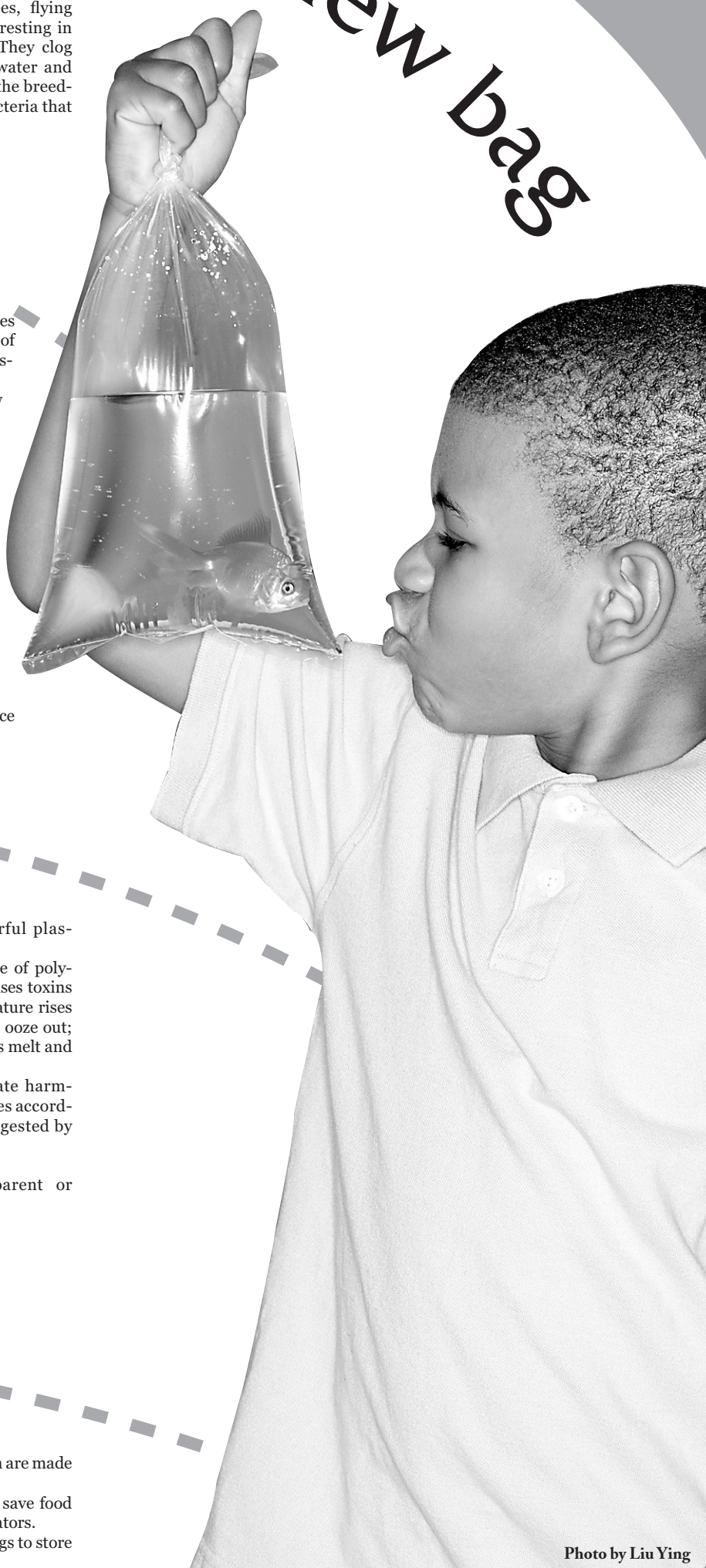


Photo by Liu Ying

Smurf to it for a Smurfy celebration



The Smurfs are a timeless favorite.

Peyo and the Smurfs

Cartoonist and the father of the Smurfs, Pierre Culliford, Peyo to most, died in 1992. His tiny blue characters were first introduced in a comic strip in October 1958. Originally named Schtroumpf, the blue characters' name was simplified to "Smurfs" for most of the world. Here in China, the characters were known as "lan jing ling."

The Smurfs first appeared as supporting characters in Peyo's 1958 "Johan and Pirlouit" comic. Their popularity exploded, and by 1960 the Smurfs had their own strip series. With the help of Hanna-Barbera Productions, the Smurfs became an animated cartoon in 1981.

The mostly white-capped characters lived in mushroom homes and spoke in a smurfy language where nouns and verbs were frequently smurfed up.

While Japanese cartoons may dominate the stations these days, it wasn't always so. Today's young adults grew up in a time when cartoons would "La la, la-la la la, sing a happy song; la la, la-la la la, Smurf the whole day long"

Whether viewed in black and white or on old tube color televisions, a generation watched The Smurfs every week as they lived a happy life in the forests and helped each other to avoid Gargamel and Azrael.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Smurfs' creation.



Peyo and one of his Smurfs.



Brussels's streets come alive with cartoons.

Brussels, hometown of the Smurfs

The Hanna-Barbera logo gave many the impression that *The Smurfs* was a US-created cartoon. However, the hometown of the blue three-apple-high dwarfs is Brussels, capital of Belgium.

Belgian Center for Comic Strip Art

The 50th birthday celebration started last Monday at the Belgian Center for Comic Strip Art with Smurf-berry cake and sasparrilla juice. A big model Smurf was stationed at the entrance to welcome tourists in to the birthday exhibition and tell the real story of the Smurfs to new comic readers. There are 50 Smurf games to play at the expo. A big Smurf, designed by a celebrity, will be unveiled in each European city participating in the event. The "Celebrity Smurfs" will be auctioned off and their proceeds donated to UNICEF.

The museum, created by a small group of Belgian comic strip fans, is completely devoted to the comic strip in all of its manifestations. It displays original pages of comic artwork, sketches and memorabilia that were property of the original strip artists.

The center has seven permanent exhibits. Its collection of hand-drawn original comic book pages, displayed in optimal conditions for preservation of the fragile inks and paper, is particularly rich. It includes many artists, both well-known and undiscovered.

The center inventories 650 pro-

fessional comic artists in Belgium, which, for a country with a population of 10 million, is the largest concentration of cartoonists per square kilometer in the world.

Belgian Center for Comic Strip Art
20 Rue des Sables, Brussels
Tel: (322) 219.19.80
Fax: (322) 219.23.76

Open: museum, permanent and temporary exhibits, bookstore and cafe, daily except Monday from 10am to 6pm

Admission: adults, E6.2 per person, children under 12, E2.5 per person

Cartoon walls

Strolling through Brussels, you can find lots of cartoon characters painted on houses. Most of the paintings are of Tintin, which lends a lovely child-like atmosphere to the city.

The center of Brussels is a big square with architecture dating back to middle ages. Cartoon characters are painted on the walls of the surrounding buildings; some characters even cover the whole four-story wall.

The Brussels government first proposed the suggestion to bring cartoon characters to the streets. It uses all its walls as a canvas to beautify the city. At first, there were only Brussels residents drawing cartoons on the walls. Then, many foreigners who won local cartoon competitions added their works as well.

Winners of various cartoon competitions leave their works on the walls of Brussels every year.



White Smurfs will be hidden in 20 European cities.

IC Photos



Papa Smurf



The Belgian Center for Comic Strip Art

Continued on page 21 ...

... continued
from page 20



Smurfs in Paris

How to celebrate

The Smurfs are preparing to invade Europe for their 50th birthday, which will end in October. Smurfs will be deployed overnight to each of the 20-target European cities, including Paris and Berlin. When people wake up, they will discover several thousand Smurfs in their neighborhoods. The Smurfs can be found anywhere: in line at the post office, waiting at the bus stop, playing around the fountain and at the schoolyard. Each is a white statue in Smurf form — three apples high, of course. If you find a Smurf, take it home to paint it, color it, dress it and enter it in the Creativity Contest.

As well as a birthday tour of European cities, Peyo's family announced last Monday a host of Smurf-related projects in the works, including a new feature-length, 3D-animated film, art exhibits, introduction of new comic books and a remastered release of the 1980s TV series.



Supplementary tours

Tintin tour

The *Adventures of Tintin* is the most popular and famous cartoon in Belgium created by Georges Remi, known as Hergé. Tintin has become internationally-recognized as the mystery-solving Belgian in bad trousers.

The Belgian Center for Comic Strip Arts is a good place for any Tintin enthusiast to start. The museum traces Tintin's evolution from an almost featureless line-drawing in the original newspaper strip to a fully-formed, full-color character in later editions.

If you want to stock up on Tintin memorabilia, La Boutique Tintin is located by the Grand Place. As the official Tintin gift shop, La Boutique contains an impressive but expensive array of goods. True Tintin fanatics may want to delve deeper into its creator's sources of inspiration. Hergé

was born in the Etterbeek district on the city's southeast side. His modest family home is located at 33 Rue Philippe Baucq. You can get there by taking bus 71 from Brussels Central station to Place Flagey, then take tram 82 to Germeir. Farther out in the same direction, you can also follow Avenue de Dieweg to the Dieweg cemetery, where Hergé is buried.

Round off your Tintin adventure with a trip to the flea market in the Place du Jeu de Balles, which sells antiques, vintage clothes and books. Featured in the 1943 story *The Secret of the Unicorn*, this is where Tintin finds the model ship containing a map to the buried treasure of Sir Francis Haddock.

La Boutique Tintin
13 Rue de la colline
Website: tintin.com

Pippi Longstocking tour

This tour covers three cities in Sweden as it follows in the footsteps of Astrid Lindgren, creator of Pippi Longstocking. The first stop can be Stockholm, the country's capital. It is built on 14 islands and is often called the "Venice of the North."

Lindgren's museum moved to Stockholm when she was 19 in 1926. At the time, she lived in the surroundings described in her books. While in Stockholm, visit the Skansen Open Air Museum, Vasa Ship Museum and the Royal Palace. Then drive 190 miles for more than 60 years. She never lost the contact with her childhood town.

The last destination city is Vimmerby. Visit *The World of Astrid Lindgren*, a theme park in Vimmerby, to meet Pippi Longstocking and many others characters from Lindgren's children's books.
(By Jackie Zhang)

Follow Pippi Longstocking to the Royal Opera in Stockholm.



Stories from *The Adventures of Tintin* are a common decoration on Brussels's buildings.

Photos provided by Pbase.com



American Gangster 2007

Movie of the Week

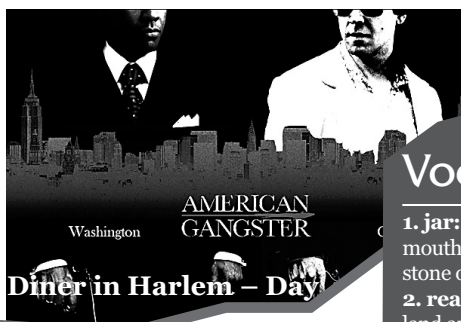
The movie is based on a true story called, "The Return of Superfly" published in *New York Time Magazine*. With famous director Ridley Scott and the performance of Denzel Washington and Russell Crowe, it is touted as a "a big, teeming American epic". It has also been observed as a possible candidate for the Oscar based on its style and actors.

Some may have other reasons to choose the movie, maybe because of Jay-Z, whose older song "Heart of the City (Ain't no Love)" was included in the film's trailer, and later Jay-Z released an album just titled "American Gangster".



Synopsis

In the 1970s, drug abuse is the number one problem in New York. After the sudden death of his boss Bumpy Johnson, Frank Lucas takes control and rises to the status of heroin kingpin in the Harlem district of Manhattan. With a supply of pure heroin directly from his source in Southeast Asia, Frank has the drugs transported to the US via military service planes and makes a huge fortune. However, Frank is finally arrested by detective Richie Roberts, forcing a complete turnabout.



Scene 1: Diner in Harlem – Day

(Tango and his body-guard come in and approach Frank's table where he reads the morning paper as he eats breakfast.)

Tango: Didn't you see the jar⁽¹⁾, Frank? I think you walked right past it.

(Frank ignores him, forks at his eggs, eats. Tango sits.)

Tango: The money jar. On the corner. What I got to do, put a sign on it? (Frank indicates that he would answer if his mouth was not full. He swallows finally, but then only reaches for his coffee cup to take a sip, further irritating Tango.)

Tango: Bumpy don't own 116th Street no more, Frank. Bumpy don't own no real estate⁽²⁾ in Harlem no more. I'm the landlord now and the lease⁽³⁾ is twenty-percent.

(Frank dabs at his mouth with a napkin and gives Tango a look that says that won't be happening.)

Tango: Then don't sell dope⁽⁴⁾, Frank. Get a job. You need a job? You can

be my driver, drive me around, open my door, "yes, sir," "no sir," "where to, sir," "right away, Massa Johnson, sir."

Frank: Twenty percent?

Tango: Of every dollar. Every truckload, every girl, every ounce. In the jar.

Frank: Twenty percent's my profit. If I'm giving it to you then what am I doing? Twenty percent puts me, and everyone you know, out of business, which puts you out of business. (reaches for his breakfast check) There are ways to make money legitimately, and then there's this way. Not even Bumpy took 20 percent.

Tango: Bumpy's dead.

(Frank regards Tango a moment, gets up, takes out his money clip, covers the check on the table with a five, peels off a US \$1 bill from the clip, tosses it down in front of Tango.)

Frank: There. That's 20 percent.

Scene 2: Stephen Crane Projects – Morning

(Drugs on a coffee table. Body on the floor. Rivera, despondent, on the couch. The male paramedics, scared.)

Richie: (on the phone) Sergeant, I'm not asking, I'm telling you: Get some patrolmen over here now!

Dial tone: The police sergeant has hung up⁽⁵⁾ on him.

(Richie throws the phone. The paramedics stare at him.)

Paramedic: You got no back-up⁽⁶⁾? Why is that?

(The only other person who would know the answer to that is Rivera, who just shakes his head in despair.)

Richie: Bandage his neck.

Paramedic: Detective... he's

dead.

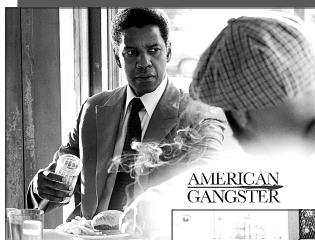
Richie: I know he's dead. Bandage his neck, clean him up and prop⁽⁷⁾ him up so he's sitting. And open his eyes.

Paramedic: All right.

Richie: Step back, injured man coming out. Let them do their job and he'll be all right. Excuse me. Step back. Sir. Please.

Vocabulary

- jar:** a short-necked wide-mouthed pot made of glass, stone or clay.
- real estate:** property in land and houses.
- lease:** a written agreement by which a building, piece of land, etc., is given to somebody for a certain time in return for rent.
- dope:** slang term for drugs.
- hang up:** to finish a telephone conversation by putting the receiver back in the cradle.
- back-up:** a thing or person standing ready to help another.
- prop:** to support or put in position.
- turn in:** to deliver to the police.
- put on the stand:** a person taking the chair beside the judge in a court room to testify.
- get in line:** stand in a queue waiting for something.



Scene 3: County Jail-Interview Room – Day

Frank: I just heard something. I said it couldn't be true. You didn't really turn in⁽⁸⁾ 8 million dollars you found in the trunk of a car, did you?

Frank: Want me to tell you what happened to it? It ended up in cops' pockets.

Richie: Maybe.

Frank: Maybe? No. It did. All you did was give it to them for nothing in return. Not nothing: You got their contempt.

Frank: Why'd you do that? What're you trying to prove, you're better than them? You're not better than them. You are them.

Richie: I don't have the time or interest to listen to (this) –

Frank: You did it because it was right. That's all. Why's that hard to say? The question is would you do it again? That was a long time ago. It'd be very easy to find out. Tell me you want to find out, tell me the address, and a car will be there, the trunk loaded.

Richie: No, thanks.

Frank: Who the f—k are you to say no to that? You think that impresses me?

Frank: You think by putting me in jail, you're going to stop even one junkie from dying? Because you won't. If it isn't me, it'll be someone else. With me or without me, nothing's going to change.

Richie: Then that's the way it is.

Frank: You have any sort of case? Or just that idiot who drives for my brother. Is he your case? Because if it's just him and the powder, it's not enough.

Richie: Then you got nothing to worry about.

Frank: My brothers won't talk to you. My cousins. None of my family. No one but that mother-fucking driver.

Richie: I got a line of people wanting to testify that stretches out the door and around the block.

Frank: Bullshit.

Richie: Is it? Tony the Bug. Benny Two-Socks. Carmine Camanetti.

Frank: Who the f—k are they? I don't know them and they don't know me.

Richie: They sell dope for the Mazzano crime family. Which you all but put out of business.

Frank: This is who you're going to put on the stand⁽⁹⁾? Guys who don't know me? Who got nothing to do with me?

Richie: They have everything to do with you. And the only thing they hate more than you is what you represent.

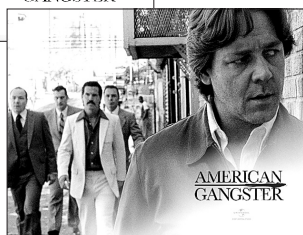
Frank: I don't represent nothing.

Richie: You don't? Black businessman like you? Of course you do. But once you're gone, things can return to normal.

Frank: Look at me. You looking? Can you tell by looking it would mean nothing to me if tomorrow you turned up dead?

Richie: Get in line⁽¹⁰⁾. That one stretches around the block, too.

(By Zhang Dongya)



Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Gan Tian at gantian@ynet.com.

Dating dilemma

By Annie Wei

Last summer, Adam returned to Shanghai as an intern at a big American organization.

Adam is one of my closest friends from the US. I met him four years ago through his ex-girlfriend Serena.

Serena was my roommate at that time in Beijing and we were like sisters. She was so nice to me – always sweet and considerate.

I am the only child in my family due to China's one child policy. It felt great to have Serena and Adam like a sister and brother.

However, they broke up after they left China. Now she has another boyfriend, and it is Adam's first time in China without her.

He was visiting friends in Beijing so I hung out with them as much as I could.

I loved being around them. I felt like I was back in high school. We sat on the floor, watching DVDs, drinking coke and eating potato chips.

The other guys did not gossip with me

that much about their relationships, but Adam did. He openly talked about who he was seeing in Shanghai right now, weird dating experiences in China and how materialistic Shanghai girls were for refusing to date a poor guy like him. Although I did not agree with some of his opinions about women, I said nothing and just remained a good listener.

The other day, Adam asked me, "Will you be my date at Serena's wedding?" I was shocked.

I knew he was still very upset about Serena leaving him for another, but he should have known by now my strict dating rules. Firstly, I love him like a brother. Secondly, dating my best girlfriend's ex seriously violates my own rules. If any of my girlfriends dared to date my man, no matter if he was an ex from a million years ago, she would be out of my address book immediately. And I would insist my other girlfriends

remove his name as well.

Understanding the dating culture between China and other countries is very different and I did not jump up and shout at him like I normally would.

"What do you mean by 'date' here?" I asked.

"In this case, date does not mean dating as a girlfriend or boyfriend. It just means to accompany someone to a formal event as a friend," Adam said.

Being with Serena for so long, Adam knew all her family and friends very well so it was not very comfortable for him to show up at her wedding alone. As a result, he needed a close friend as company, but not necessarily as a girlfriend.

"Sure," I said, "It is no problem, but I will still have to ask Serena first."

No matter what the dating culture dictated in his country, I had to follow my rules first.

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please take a picture and send it to gantian@ynet.com together with your name and address.

特價品 Bargain item

燒春雞

Burn the spring chicken

Burning chickens

By Derrick Sobodash

Working as a cook can be incredibly challenging, but deciding what to do when a dish runs a fowl is a tricky situation to challenge anyone. Do you salvage it or start over?

This restaurant adopted a less dignified approach: dropping its price and selling the culinary catastrophe as is.

At least that is what one would gather after reading this sign, which advertises a "Bargain item": "burn the spring chicken."

Burning chicken is not an easy feat. Chicken cooks very slowly in an oven, and to darken it to a chalky charcoal probably means the chef was off duty knocking back a few bottles of Erguotou for a couple hours. The worst that usually happens when baking a chicken is the bird coming out too dry.

This restaurant, of course, is not selling burnt chickens - it is selling baked or roasted chickens. Someone made a serious English boo boo.

The character shao can have both meanings. Generally speaking, when referring to food or food preparation, the meaning is closer to bake or roast, or even "cooked" in general. The "burn" meaning is what you would find in words like "shaohui," to burn down, or "shaoxiang," to burn incense, as in the infamous panda joss-stick virus that made its rounds on the Internet last year.

The top also has slightly odd wording. "Bargain item" sounds awkward, though it is difficult to think of a suitable replacement without knowing where this text was found. If this is a menu or a posting outside a restaurant, something like "Specials" or "Discounts" would work well.

Blacklist

Beijing Today has come up with Blacklist, a new column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then this page is your new best friend. Watch it for each week.

Local professor: Zhu Shida

1. In order buy tickets

The set phrase is "in order to," followed by an infinitive. Don't ever forget the word "to." So, you must say, "In order to buy tickets."

2. Vieing for the championship

To vie means to strive for superiority; contend in rivalry; compete. Don't be confused with its present participle form. It is "vying" just as "dying". There is only one exception - "to dye". In its present participle form, the "e" is

retained giving us "dyeing."

3. The game was started since 2000

In the time frame expressed in the sense of "since", you have to use the present or past perfect tense. However, the verb "to start" is a verb without any sense of duration. So, it can not co-exist with the adverbial form of "since." It should either be: "The game was started in 2000," or "The game has been in full swing since 2000."

Native Speaker: Joe Edwards

1. In order buy tickets

Again, if you try to buy tickets using the above phrase, the vendor will think you are doing a very bad voice impression of Tonto, the Lone Ranger's sidekick of long ago! The phrase, "in order to" is written in stone. You must use "to" to make it work grammatically. It must read, "In order to buy tickets." "Let me put ear to ground, kemo sabe. I think me hear good grammar approaching!"

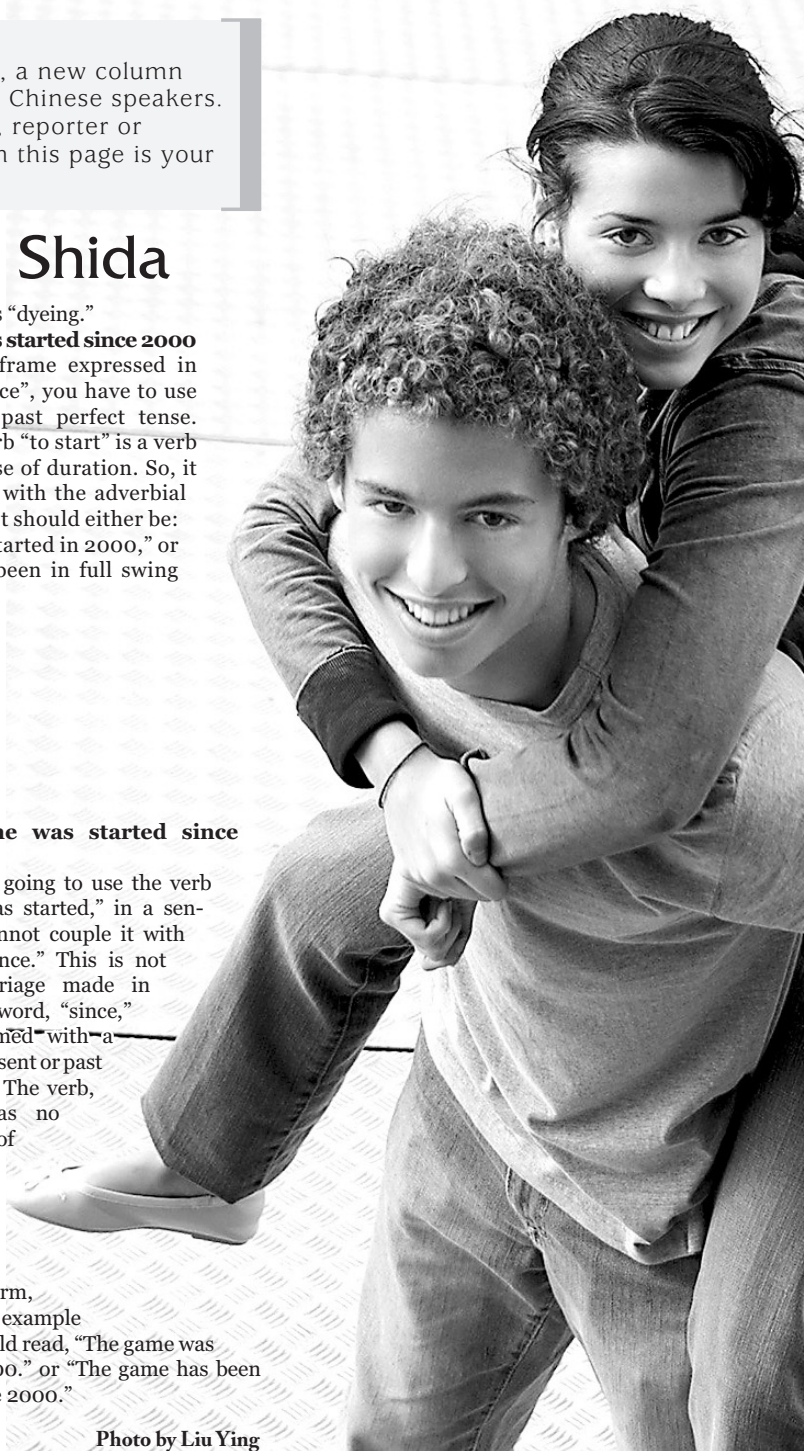
2. Vieing for the championship

To vie for something means to go for the gold with everything that's in you. In this exercise, we are vying for spelling gold. Did you notice what changed in the previous sentence I just wrote? Yes, the spelling of "vieing." The "ie" was replaced with the letter, "y" making it correct. The sentence should be, "Vying for the championship." It is similar to the word, "dying." The only exception is "dye" where, in its present participle form, the "e" is stat making it, "dyeing." I know this all sounds a bit hair-brained but it is good grammar.

3. The game was started since 2000

If you are going to use the verb structure, "was started," in a sentence, you cannot couple it with the word, "since." This is not a word marriage made in heaven! The word, "since," must be teamed with a verb in the present or past perfect tense. The verb, "to start" has no sense of duration so cannot be used in conjunction with the adverbial form, "since." The example sentence should read, "The game was started in 2000." or "The game has been going on since 2000."

Photo by Liu Ying



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Friday, January 25

Exhibition
Guyun Xinfeng

Where: National Art Museum of China, 1 Wusi Da Jie, Dongcheng
When: 9 am – 5 pm, until March 21
Admission: 5-20 yuan
Tel: 6401 7076

Huang Jun Digital Images Exhibition

Where: Lobby Gallery, JW Marriott Beijing, China Central Place, 83 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang
When: All day, until March 31
Admission: free
Tel: 8911 5736

Jiang Pengyi Solo Exhibition

Where: Paris-Beijing Photo Gallery, 4 Jiuxianqiao, Chaoyang
When: Daily 10 am – 6 pm, until February 22
Admission: Free
Tel: 84599263

Movie**Les Bronzés 3: Amis Pour La Vie**

Where: French Culture Center, 1/F, Guangcai Inter-

national Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang
When: 7:30 pm
Admission: 10-20 yuan
Tel: 6553 2627



Sunday, January 27

Exhibition
Returning – Abiao Solo Exhibition

His work contains something quite historical, but still has strong modern rhythm, and elements admired and accepted both by the east and west.

Where: Artist Village Gallery, 1 North of Renzhuang, Songzhuang, Tongzhou
When: Daily 8 am – midnight, until February 29
Admission: 20 yuan
Tel: 6959 8343

Bao Pao Solo Exhibition
Bao Pao is a skeptic in the Chinese contemporary art world. In recent years he has played an active role as an art critic and activist. But no matter how his status

veteran Spanish director Bigas Luna.

Where: Beijing Institute Cervantes, A 1 Gongti Nan Lu, Chaoyang

When: 7 pm
Admission: Free
Tel: 5879 9666

Upcoming

Swan Lake by Russia Ballet Troupe

Who: Russia Ballet Troupe
Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Chaoyang
When: 7:30 pm,
January 31-February 1
Admission: 50-1,000 yuan

Stage in February

Concert**FIYTA Ning Feng Solo Violin Concert**

Ning Feng, the most recent winner of the Paganini International Violin Competition in Genoa, is holding a solo concert where he will combine Western and Chinese classical melodies on Valentine's Day.

Who: Ning Feng
Where: Century Theater, 40 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang
When: 7:30 pm,
February 14
Tel: 5905 9082
Admission: 80-880 yuan

New Year Concert

Who: Symphony Orchestra of Russia

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Chaoyang
When: 7:30 pm,
February 7
Admission: 50-1,000 yuan

Full House of Love

Who: China Drama and Dance Symphony Orchestra

Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng
When: 7:30 pm,
February 14
Admission: 80-999 yuan

Spring Festival Concert

Who: China Film Symphony Orchestra

Where: Beijing Music Hall, 1 Bei Xinhua Jie, Xicheng
When: 7:30 pm,
February 10
Admission: 100-1,280 yuan

Dance**Sleeping Beauty**

Who: Russian Ballet Troupe
Where: Beijing Exhibition Theater, 135 Xizhimen Wai Dajie, Xicheng

When: 7:30 pm,
February 7
Admission: 50-800 yuan

Nutcracker

Who: Russian Ballet Troupe
Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Chaoyang

When: 7:30 pm,
February 3
Admission: 50-1,000 yuan

Swan

Who: English National Ballet
Where: Century Theatre, 40 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: 7:30 pm,
January 30-February 3
Admission: 180-1,680 yuan

Notre-Dame de Paris

Who: Kremlin Palace Ballet Theater

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Chaoyang
When: 7:30 pm,
February 12-14
Admission: 180-880 yuan

Drama**Red and Black**

Who: Shanghai Dramatic Arts Center

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Chaoyang
When: 7:30 pm,
February 19-22
Admission: 100-1,280 yuan

(By Li Jing)

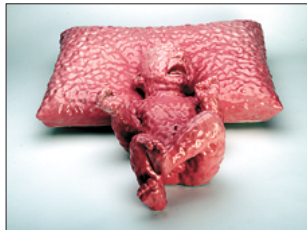
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Saturday, January 26

Exhibition**'85 New Wave – The Birth of Chinese Contemporary Art**

Where: Ullens Center for Contemporary Art, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 10 am – 6 pm, until February 17
Admission: 10-30 yuan
Tel: 6438 6578

Li Yuduan Solo Exhibition

Where: Michael Schultz Gallery Beijing, 319 East End Art, Caochangdi, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 10 am – 6 pm, until February 26
Admission: Free
Tel: 6432 5093

Spring Festival Contemporary Oil Painting Exhibition

The exhibition will feature more than 30 works of young Chinese painters such as Luo Qi. Through a variety of images and approaches, the paintings reflect the artists' perceptions of the age they live in, their lives and social environment.

Where: Qin Gallery, Enjoy Paradise, Huaweili 1-1E (North of Beijing Curio City), Chaoyang
When: Tue-Sun 9:30 am – 6 pm, until February 29
Admission: Free
Tel: 8779 0461, 8779 0458

Movie**Yo soy la Juani**

A small-town girl seeks fame and fortune in the big city with mixed results in this drama from



Part two of this riotous French Comedy.

Where: French Culture Center, 1/F, Guangcai International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang
When: 3 pm
Admission: 10-20 yuan
Tel: 6553 2627

